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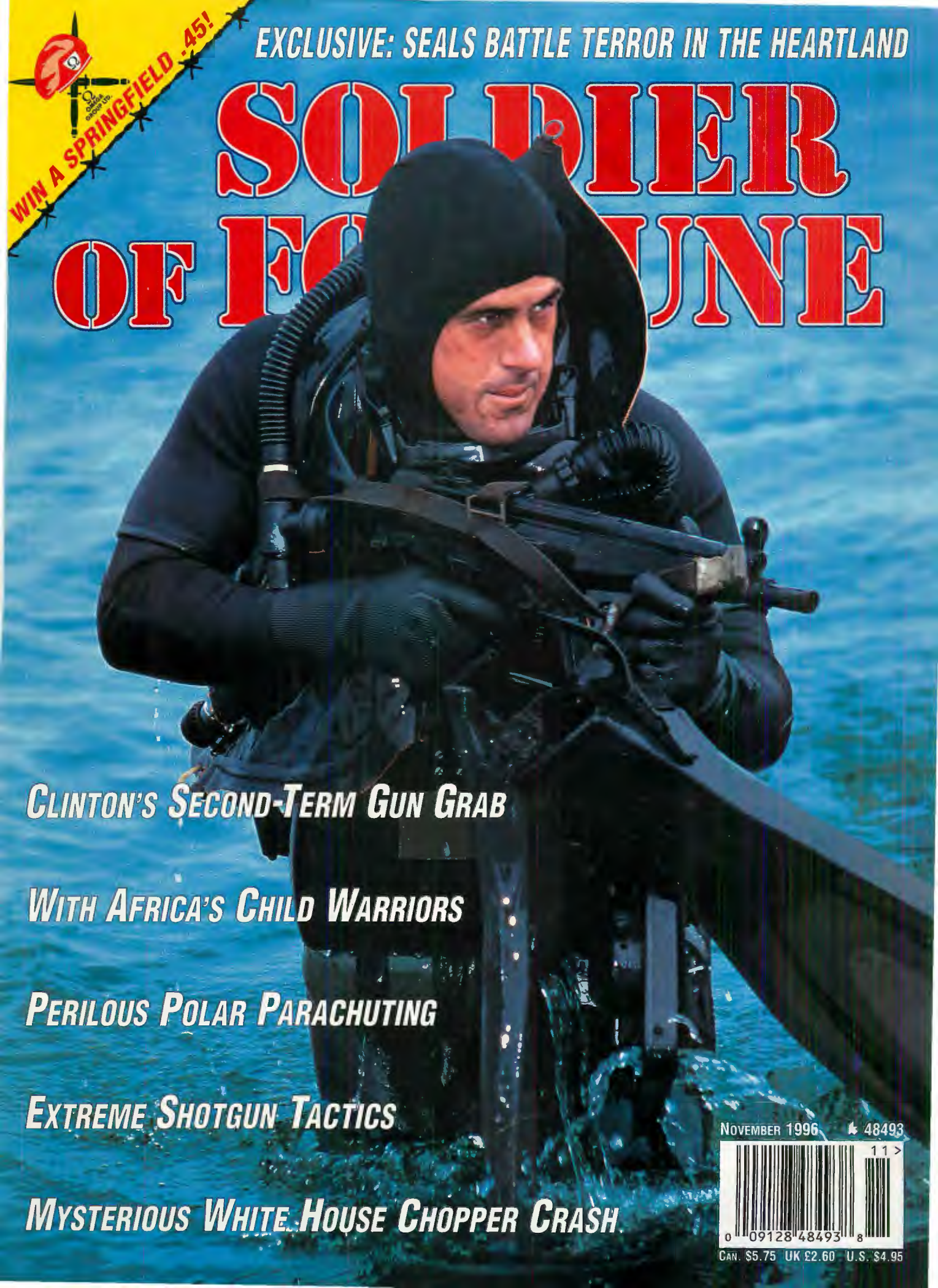

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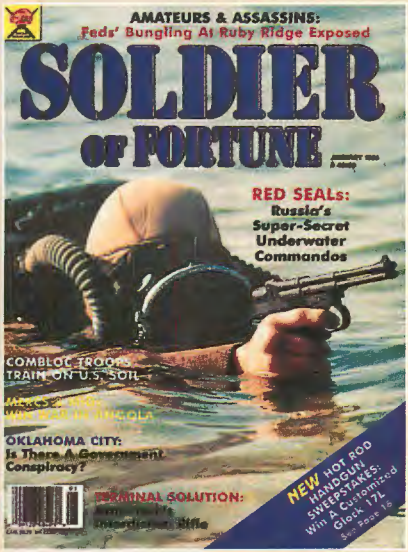

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COMMAND GUIDANCE

Vote, Vote, Vote

by Robert K. Brown

Another three-way race. And again, conservative voters face a quandary: support Robert Dole, or cast their lot with H. Ross Perot. America's discontent is easy to understand. Clinton's promised tax cut evaporated; Hillary took our flawed health-care system and threatened to turn it into a horror show; and we watched as the Brady Bill, assault-weapons ban, Waco and Ruby Ridge were shoved down our throats.

There are more Americans working harder for less than ever before. We now have an entire generation ("X") believing it has no future as "baby boomers" squander their American Dream.

Perhaps it comes as no surprise the '94 elections turned both houses of Congress over to the Republicans. But even their offensives have been stalled by the *Clintonistas*. A third party may look to many to be the only answer.

But is it? The only viable third party today belongs to Perot. In the '92 race, Perot's poll numbers passed 33% and were rocketing even higher. Then he quit. Then he was back in. Then Clinton won.

Perot's reason for withdrawing from the race was a *Republican plot* to embarrass his daughter at her wedding. As we reported in March '93, Perot's primary source of his "multiple reports" was Scott Barnes.

This is the same Scott Barnes who was let out of the Army halfway through his 3-year enlistment as unfit; hired and fired from two police departments; and convicted for illegal wiretapping in 1988. He peddled stories that he was hired by the CIA to assassinate American POWs in Laos and murder Ronald Rewald, whose investment firm supposedly was used by the CIA to funnel money to their "off book" activities in Southeast Asia. None of these "contracts" was corroborated by any other sources.

Barnes doctored photos of Perot's daughter to show her in compromising and embarrassing poses. He then convinced Washington-based BBC Producer David Taylor of a GOP plot to discredit Perot and bug his office.

Perot believed it all. Since every federal agency that has had any dealings with Barnes considers him a flake, phony and con-man, Perot surmised that Barnes had to be a truthful and reliable character. Is this the sound, seasoned reasoning we need in the White House? Perot squandered the efforts and hopes of tens of thousands of his supporters in '92.

Forget Perot. He can't win. He won't win. And a ballot for Perot is not a protest vote, it is a vote for Clinton. Quite plainly, if Clinton is enthroned for another term, we might as well forget an individual's right to purchase and possess a firearm. (Plans are afoot to convene disarmament conferences under the United Nations umbrella to bring international pressure on the United States to outlaw private ownership of firearms).

Bob Dole, not Perot, is the only formidable roadblock on the Democrats' freeway to disaster. He has the character, ability to win and depth of experience to turn this nation around.

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SOF

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November 1996

FEATURES

WILD GEEZERS
Monte Marshall
The wind-chill factor on exit from the Ilyushin-76 aircraft is -95 degrees; the drop zone has 20-foot ice ridges buffeted by arctic winds. Aside from their 70% injury rate, these parachuting tourists had a blast! **31**

STAR-WARS FRATRICIDE
James L. Pate
Like a mystery from *The X-Files*, a presidential helicopter crashes near a top-secret, microwave-weaponry site, killing Marine crewmen who appear to have been burned *from the inside out.* The government's verdict? Mechanical failure... **34**

"SWIMMER" UP A TREE
Capt. Larry Bailey (USN, Ret.)
A top publisher of military history releases *Swimmers Among the Trees,* purportedly an authentic, Navy SEALs-in-Vietnam book. Smelling a fish, *SOF* sent a copy to its critic, a verifiable been-there, done-that former SEAL ... who chews it up. **40**

KILLING TERRORISTS AT HOME...
Gregory A. Walker
When only the best will do: Had terrorists seized hostages at the Atlanta Olympics, SEAL Team 6 operators were standing by in the shadows as the U.S. government's "final option." *SOF* profiles this elite, U.S. Navy unit. **42**

THE *GUNS* OF NOVEMBER
Larry Pratt
If law-abiding American gun owners think Clinton's first term amounted to a gut punch for the Second Amendment, his re-election would deliver the final blow. As a lame-duck president, Slick Willie would have nothing to lose... **46**

BABY BOOMERS
Roddy Scott
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Wild Geezers — page 31 Monte Marshall

*SHOT*GUNSITE
Peter G. Kokalis
Whether "talking" to a hostile mob or repelling a burglar, nothing beats a combat shotgun. Yet tactical skills often are neglected even by armed professionals. Scattergun in hand, *SOF*'s technical editor goes to school. **52**

SWEDEN'S BLUE-WATER SAPPERS
Rob Krott
Every six months, the country known for Volvos and bikini teams turns a select group of navy conscripts into elite, explosive ordnance-disposal frogmen. *SOF* visits one crew of *Röjdykare* divers after a hazardous op in the Baltic Sea. **58**

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COVER

With a heritage from WWII frogmen and Vietnam-era SEALs, and influenced by British SBS and SAS specialists, SEAL Team 6 is the U.S. Navy's contribution to America's counterterrorist force. *SOF*'s special report begins on page 42.

Hans Halberstadt, Arms Communications

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HOT SITE

Net Surfers and other indigents take note: Punch in http://www.huntpolitics.com and feast on news, speculation on what the current administration has in store for hunters and some pointed jibes and comments on the present political scene, plus links to similar-interest sites. Our favorite extraction from a recent edition: a bumper snicker: "Neither Bill Clinton Nor O.J. Have Been Convicted Of Anything."

E-MAIL FROM HOME, FREE FOR GIS, FROM THE GOOD GUYS

The North American Center for Emergency Commo (NACEC), a good-guys non-profit service for the commo needs of active-duty GIs and their families, has completed a major expansion, and can now deliver 250-word free messages to more than 7,800 locations worldwide; most are delivered within six hours from the time they are sent, from anywhere in the world.

Smaller, free 50-word medium-speed messages can be sent to most other locations worldwide, including U.S. Troops in Bosnia; most 50-word messages are delivered within 2-3 days.

As all messages are delivered to the recipients by a world-wide network of good-guy volunteers, *only the sender* need have a computer and Internet access.

GIs and their families are invited to use the free Digi-Gram message service, 24-hours a day, seven days a week, from anywhere in the world, by accessing the NACEC Internet World Wide Web site. Their WWW site address is http://www.nacec.org.

James L. Pate

Ordnance gurus William H. Hallahan, left, and Abe Flatau pause to pose for *SOF* National Affairs Editor James L. Pate during a visit at Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland. In background is 83 tons of '50s-era 280mm atomic cannon. Flatau, a retired Army ordnance research and design engineer, is inventor of the tubular bullet (see "BATF's Magic Bullets," Sept. '93), and the ring air foil grenade. Hallahan is author of *Misfire: The History of How America's Small Arms Have Failed Our Military*, an excellent history on the foibles and fallacies of ordnance acquisition since the founding of our country. *Misfire*, 580 pages, is published by Scribners in New York.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Drug traffickers are no longer simply crossing our borders with their illegal cargo, they are now beginning to own our border." — Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) at Judiciary Committee hearing on Mexican drug cartels, where it was suggested that U.S. military assets be used to patrol our southern border.

LEAA CHAMPIONS COMMUNITY PROTECTION INITIATIVE

"Thousands of police officers will provide added protection to America's communities, at no additional cost to taxpayers," said James Fotis, executive director of the Law Enforcement Alliance of America, speaking of the "Community Protection Initiative of 1996"' (S.960) introduced by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah). The LEAA initiated the original legislative proposal in 1992 during the 102nd Congress, and "the Law Enforcement Alliance of America has worked very hard for over four years to see this important life-saving, cost-free legislation become law," Fotis said.

The Community Protection Initiative gives trained, certified current and retired peace officers the option to carry firearms nationally while they are off duty or out of their jurisdiction.

The LEAA is a national law-enforcement association comprising more than 50,000 rank and file police officers, crime victims and concerned citizens. They may be reached at 7700 Leesburg Pike, Dept. SOF, Suite 421, Falls Church, VA 22045; phone: 703-847-COPS.

Belly up to the BAR: Jim Ballou leans into a Colt Monitor iteration of John Browning's intrepid BAR at Knob Creek last spring. Jim is presently researching to write the definitive book on the BAR, in first-hand accounts of combat use of this splendid weapon. Anyone with photos or anecdotes contact: REBAR, Jim Ballou, 122 Lafayette Rd., Salisbury, MA 01952; phone: 617-592-3994; E-mail to: ptcraven @ loa.com.

NO SURPRISE HERE

A comprehensive two-year study done by University of Chicago researcher John Lott strongly confirms the premise that citizens bearing arms sharply lowers killings, rapes and other violent crimes. The study analyzed FBI stats in the nation's 3,054 counties from 1977 to 1992, to see what impact the introduction of concealed-carry laws might have had on crime (since 1986, the number of states with legal concealed-carry provisions has jumped from nine to 31, with more states considering such laws).

The results of Lott's study overwhelmingly support the premise that concealed-carry laws deter violent crime: Nationwide, such states saw homicide go down 8.5%, rape down 5% and aggravated assault down 7%. Said Lott, "The policy implications are undeniable: If you're interested in reducing murder and rape, then letting law-abiding, mentally competent citizens carry concealed weapons has a positive impact." The drop isn't primarily caused by people

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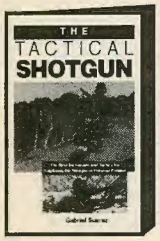
STREET STOPPERS

The Latest Handgun Stopping Power Street Results

by Evan P. Marshall and Edwin J. Sanow

Street Stoppers is the long-awaited sequel to the controversial best-selling book **Handgun Stopping Power**. Like the first book, **Street Stoppers** compiles the results of hundreds of real-life shooting incidents involving every major handgun caliber and uses that information to predict how the same loads might perform in future shootings. Not only does the new book provide the very latest results of actual shootings involving guns and ammo from .380 Auto to .45 ACP, it gives the eagerly anticipated street results of the hottest new caliber on the market, the .40 S&W; the first formal presentation in print of the Strasbourg Tests, where live goats were used as test subjects; updated street results for exotic ammo, including Golden Saber, Gold Dot and the venerable offerings from MagSafe, Glaser and others; a fascinating look at the development of Hydra-Shok ammo by its inventor; and a powerful new formula to predict handgun stopping power – the Fuller Index. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, photos, 392 pp. **$39.95**



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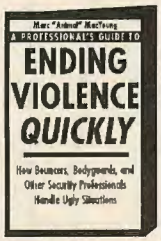
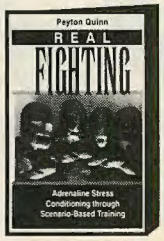
The Best Techniques and Tactics for Employing the Shotgun in Personal Combat
by Gabriel Suarez

In his second book on tactical weapons, Suarez sets the record straight on the true role of the shotgun in combat. He shows you what you need to know to defend your home, family or business, including multiple hostiles, low-light situations, moving targets and more. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, photos, illus., 232 pp. **$25.00**



A PROFESSIONAL'S GUIDE TO ENDING VIOLENCE QUICKLY
How Bouncers, Bodyguards, and Other Security Professionals Handle Ugly Situations
by Marc "Animal" MacYoung

People who deal with violence on a daily basis know that the best way to avoid getting injured or sued by the jerk who started the trouble is to defuse the situation or put him down fast and hard. Here Animal shows you how to do both. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, photos, 256 pp. **$21.00**



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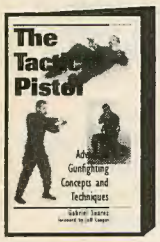
Adrenaline Stress Conditioning through Scenario-Based Training
by Peyton Quinn

Techniques learned in the dojo rarely work in a real fight. Here the author of **A Bouncer's Guide to Barroom Brawling** offers a practical solution. Learn how to control the rush of adrenaline into your system and harness it effectively to shut down the bully's antics or pound him into the pavement when all else fails. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, photos, 200 pp. **$19.95**



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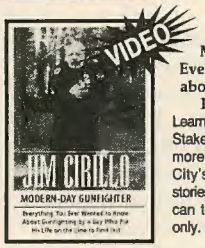

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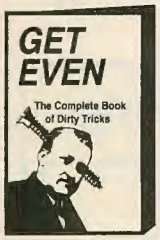

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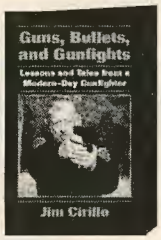

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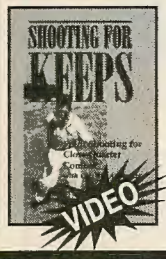

SHOOTING FOR KEEPS
Point Shooting for Close-Quarter Combat
with Col. Rex Applegate

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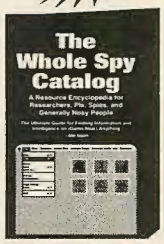

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defending themselves with guns, Lott noted, but rather that criminals seem to alter their behavior to avoid coming into contact with a person who might have a gun.

Interestingly, the study found that auto theft and larceny increased as criminals shifted to property offenses, in which contact with the victim is rare, Lott said.

Projecting these percentages nationwide, the Cato Institute notes that if all states had adopted right-to-carry laws, more than 1,500 murders, 4,000 rapes and 60,000 aggravated assaults "would have been avoided yearly," further observing that "the estimated annual gain from allowing concealed handguns is at least $6 billion."

SOLDIER OF FORTUNE TV MOVIE UPDATE

Producer Mel Efros and British director Peter Care are currently scouting upwards of 20 European locations in preparation for September's principal photography start date. Meanwhile, in South Florida, a dozen locations are being scoured, including those suitable for jungle-action sequences.

KA-BAR COMES HOME

KA-BAR, which traces its roots in Olean, N.Y., back to 1911, has been purchased by the Olean-based Alcas Corporation, which has been making the legendary USMC fighting knife for KA-BAR since KA-BAR moved to Ohio in 1977 as part of American Consumer Products. Alcas has been known for years as the "knifemaker's knifemaker" because of their excellent name in the trade for the quality of private-label knives they make for other cutlery companies.

Jim Stitt, who has been with Alcas for more than 20 years, is the new president of KA-BAR. Bob Reinschreiber, who has been with KA-BAR for more than 30 years, is

Continued on page 12

Defensive Shotgun Equipment

Tactical Grips - (front) $19.95
(rear) $16.95
Models to fit Mossberg 500 - 600; Remington 870; Winchester 1200 - 1300. Specify shotgun & front or rear.

Magazine Extensions
7 shot for Remington 870, 1100, 11-87 ..... $34.95
7 shot for Winchester 1200, 1300 ..... $34.95
8 shot for above Remingtons $36.95
10 shot for above Remingtons - Winchesters (specify) $39.95
(all extensions include Spring & Barrel/Magazine Clamp)

Barrel/Magazine Clamps $6.95
2 different models fit all above guns. Specify shotgun.

SideSaddle® Shotshell Carrier $24.95
Models to fit Remington 870, 1100, 11-87; Mossberg 500, 600; Winchester 1200, 1300; HK Super 90. Specify gun.

Tactical Sling (w/out mtg hardware) $15.95

Sling with Padded Shell Holder (9 rds) - Uncle Mike's™ $19.95

QD Swivel - fits B/M Clamp and above Slings $5.95

Pistol Grip Shotgun Case - fits 18 & 20 in. barrels & folding stocks $24.95

Folding Stock - Butler Creek - Black - models to fit Rem 870, Moss 500/590, Win 1200/1300. (Specify your gun) $69.95

Universal Barrel Shroud - Protection from hot barrel, fits all makes $19.95

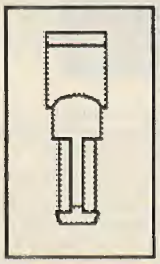
Streamlight "SCORPION" Flashlight
Super bright, focusing, push button end switch.
(includes 2 lithium batteries) ..... **(Fits new Saddle-lite)** $39.95

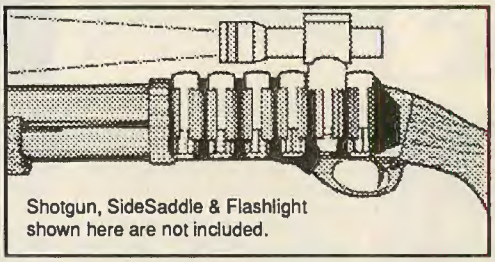
Universal Barrel Mount #4
Mounts Scorpion flashlight to shotgun $19.95

TacStar WLS-2000 Lighting System ..... **(Fits new Saddle-lite)** $89.95
Scorpion with new body, curly cord & pressure switch.
Includes mounts for 1/2 to 1 inch barrels.

We stock many items not listed here Make us your one stop source for home defense equipment. Order today while you can still obtain these supplies. Send for free catalog. Check us out on the internet.

New!! Saddle-lite™ Light Holder





The ideal way to quickly mount a flashlight to your shotgun when equipped with a TacStar Sidesaddle™ shell holder. The Saddle-lite™ snaps into one of the shell loops. It will fit 1" dia. lights such as the TacStar & Sure-Fire™ and, also, has bushings that will adapt to the Mini-Mag™, Streamlight JR™ and Scorpion™ flashlights. Quickly snaps on and off for use when needed. Located for easy access to rear switches with your thumb. Lights with remote pressure switches can be used by attaching the switch to the grip area with velcro. The new MTI Saddle-lite is one of the quickest and best ways to attach one of the more popular flashlights to your shotgun. Manufactured from glass filled Nylon the Saddle-lite is guaranteed for life.

Available Jan 97. Order now at our introductory price of $9.95 (reg price $12.95). Your credit card won't be charged until shipment is made.

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New, Eye-Opening, Documented FREE REPORT Proves ...

Now, You Can Destroy Any Attacker Using Never-Before-Seen "Killing" Techniques

Creator of Official U.S. Navy SEAL Combat System Releases Brutal New Gun & Knife Sections Of His Instructor Qualification Fighting Series

Can you disarm a man holding a knife to your throat? What if a car-jacker sticks a gun through your window — and your wife, girlfriend, or child is sitting beside you?

In an often brutal yet professionally direct approach, Jerry Peterson's new video series shows you how to destroy these attackers, while taking you to the ultimate level of fighting.

The culmination of a 2-year transformation from actual SCARS military archive techniques, his **Instructor Qualification Series** offers you the opportunity to learn what until now was taught to military Special Operations forces (SEALS, Rangers, Green Berets, etc.).

It's been called "the most brutally effective fighting system ever seen."

Before explaining more about this system, here's how Jerry Peterson, the creator of this system, became the first — and only — civilian ever to standardize, license and teach a hand-to-weapon fighting system to the United States military.

In 1989, Naval Special Warfare Command (NSWC), the group which controls all SEAL activity, was looking for ways to standardize hand-to-weapon combat techniques. After an exhaustive review, they had **rejected every single martial art form in the world.**

They found each completely unworkable in combat-oriented fighting situations where SEALS were in full gear, carrying 100# packs, and often knee-deep in water.

Amazing Scientific System

Then a SEAL NSWC officer (with black belts in 3 martial arts) saw Jerry Peterson's *scientific* fighting system. What he stumbled on wasn't martial arts. In fact it was unlike anything he'd ever seen before.

The SEAL officer watched in disbelief as a class of inexperienced students threw real punches for virtually 1 full hour, **never repeating the same sequences.** In one session he witnessed more fighting than most martial arts students see in a year.

Later, two top brass at NSWC saw the officer demonstrating moves he'd learned. But intrigue turned to doubt when they learned the originator was an ex-Army enlisted man.

Still they met with Jerry, as much out of admiration for his Vietnam record as anything (he spent 15 months as lead point for Charlie Company, the 173rd Airborne — one of the most decorated units of the war). As Vietnam vets, the SEAL officers figured Jerry at least would understand their needs.

Easily Defeats Decorated SEAL

But they were totally unprepared for what happened. To prove his system, Jerry Peterson and a highly-decorated SEAL Officer (and at 240, 100 pounds heavier than Jerry) went toe-to-toe — but at half speed. To the Officer's amazement he was **instantly** disabled and dropped to his knees.

Only then did he realize — had he not been talked out of going full speed by others who knew the awesome power of Jerry Peterson's system, his false confidence in his martial arts training and in his sheer size advantage would have left him with an arm broken as easily as a match stick!

In 5 short minutes these SEAL officers — men who had seen everything in the way of brutal fighting, and who had virtually unlimited budgets to develop the SEALS into the world's best — were blown away by Jerry Peterson's *Autokinematic™* fighting system.

Officially Required SEAL Training

Following a pilot program at Command headquarters all SEALS began receiving this training. Still, hardheaded, cocky, non-believing SEALS, many with extensive martial arts backgrounds, constantly tested Jerry:

❑ SEALS are the most proficient combat swimmers in the world. Yet 40-year-old Jerry (who wasn't a particularly good swimmer) "drowned" SEAL after SEAL in training. His scientific principles apply on any terrain.

❑ SEALS are trained to run 20 miles in soft sand. But Jerry (who really wasn't in great shape) had them gasping just 5 minutes into his first workouts while he participated effortlessly. He used breathing techniques others had never seen (techniques he can teach you in minutes).

❑ In Europe Jerry challenged a deployed SEAL platoon to pin him against a wall. All thought it a joke. Yet he escaped — from the grasp of 14 of the most proficient fighting men in the world (then showed it was no trick — simply physics, and easily learned).

Today SEALS use all these scientific techniques and many more. Since 1989, Navy SEALS go through a minimum of 40 and up to 600 rigorous hours of Jerry Peterson's training prior to deployment (often in intense, 24-hour a day sessions).

Top Government Officials Amazed

His system was demonstrated to Navy Admirals, a 4-Star General, and Congressional leaders — as well as the Secretary of the Navy and the U.S. Secretary of Defense!

Jerry was even called in prior to Desert Storm to brief the military on using *Neural Offensive Linguistics™* (a cornerstone of his system, it defines a mind set which eliminates all defensive thinking, allowing anyone, even you, to make instantaneously correct decisions in the midst of any hostile environment).

Devastating Power Gives You An Unfair Advantage

In his *HCS* video course Jerry Peterson introduced you to his revolutionary system.

Now, with the publication of ***Jerry Peterson's SCAR-HCS Hand-To-Weapon*** fighting system, Jerry leads you into the never-before-seen world of brutal, no-holds-barred gun, knife and club fighting — material you've **never** seen (unless you were in elite Special Operation forces).

You'll learn the same hand-to-weapon techniques, the same mental approaches, the same 'kill' sets Jerry developed for over 200 SEAL SCARS instructors. (These SCARS instructors now teach this system to all branches of the military Spec Op forces — Army, Navy and Air Force).

You'll know how to defeat, seriously disable and, when necessary, kill anyone threatening your life or the life of a loved one or friend!

Guaranteed To Work In Your Most Nightmarish Hostile Situation

Everything in his system was proven in the most intense war lab of the past 30 years — Vietnam!

But this isn't a course to impress friends at your Karate studio. The Instructor Qualification Series is Jerry Peterson's complete professional fighting system.

Official SEAL SCARS-CFC Creator Jerry Peterson

And professional fighting has but one objective: to defeat an attacker incredibly fast. In 29 years Jerry's longest fight lasted but 5 seconds!

This system is only for those who need a powerful yet amazingly simple system (simple because it's based on quickly-mastered scientific principles **not** a difficult art form) to protect them in life-threatening situations.

No Navy SEAL has ever lost in hand-to-hand combat when correctly applying Jerry's system! And they never will (nor will you) because ... his system is undefeatable!

This Totally Integrated System Enables You To Destroy Any Attacker — With Absolutely No Fear Or Hesitation!

Cheap imitators advertise fighter after fighter after fighter — a hodgepodge of unrelated, nonscientific moves. Now they even lie, hoping to con you into believing SEALS would lose to these guys. But they know. No one beats a Peterson-trained SEAL.

These 'wanna-bes' teach one move if an attacker swings a fist at you, another if he's got a knife.

But Jerry Peterson's scientific system teaches you why you MUST use the exact same techniques — **with a weapon or without!** What everyone else teaches is wrong. Just ask the SEALS!

The imitators claim they've trained Navy SEALS. But Jerry Peterson is the sole creator of the official hand-to-hand and hand-to-weapon combat fighting system used by the SEALS today.

He's the only civilian with a Naval Special Warfare course number (*SCARS-CFC#* K-431-0096) plus a new $2.5 million military facility predicated solely on his SCARS training.

The Navy SEAL 'wanna-be' trainers? They've got nothing — no official status, no course number.

Free Special Report Reveals GUN And KNIFE Fighting Secrets

Jerry Peterson's system is brutal. It has to be. Yet it's surprisingly easy to learn. It requires NO athletic ability, NO speed, NO conditioning.

And because his videos offer an unprecedented 3 camera angles (including a new overhead shot), you can learn this scientific system in just days; specific techniques often in just minutes.

Jerry has created a **Free special report** revealing the amazing details about his *scientific* weapons fighting system — the system which has made the Navy SEALS an undefeatable fighting force.

It's easy to get your free copy. Just **call**

1-800-600-1420

24-hours for a **Free recorded message** to get your **Free report.** International, call 602-921-8533.

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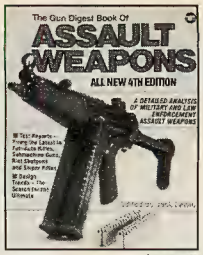

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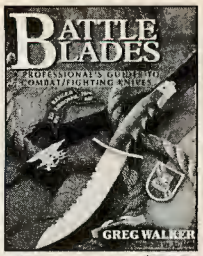

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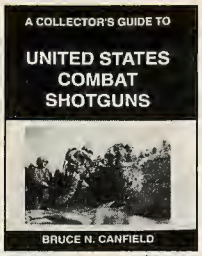

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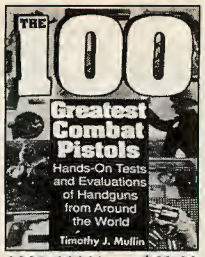

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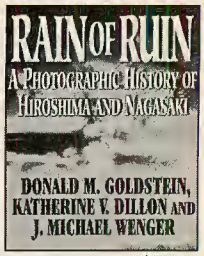

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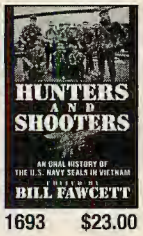

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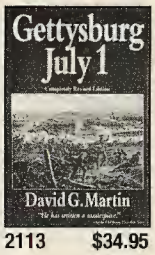

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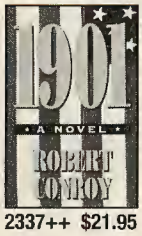

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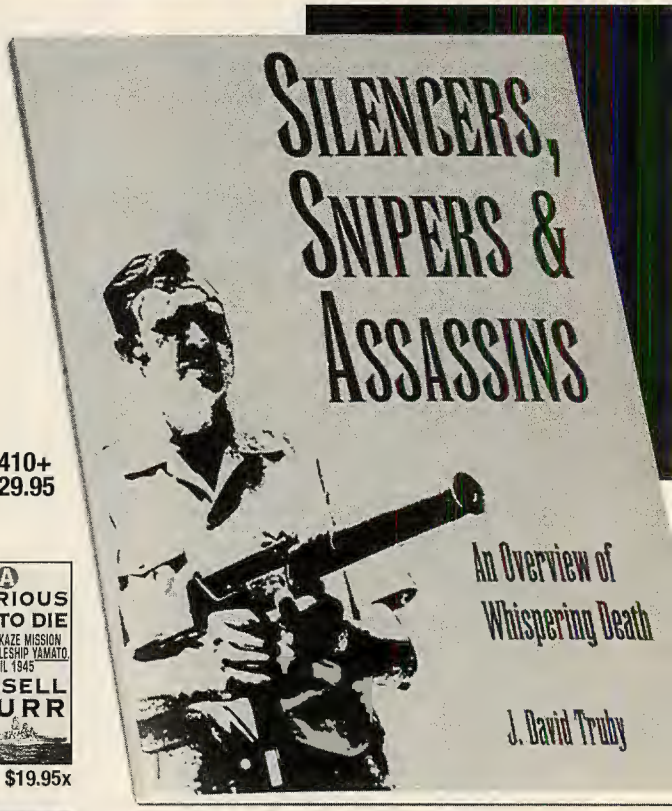

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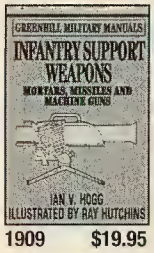

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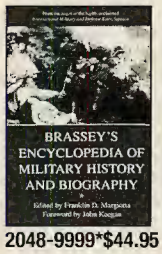

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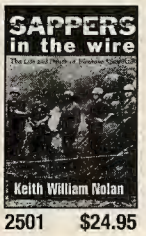

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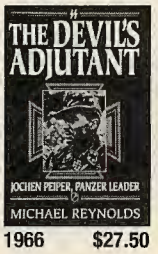

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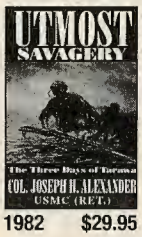

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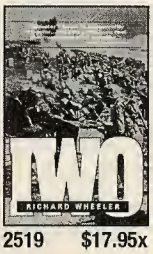

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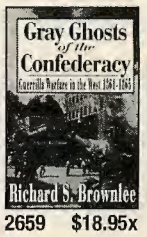

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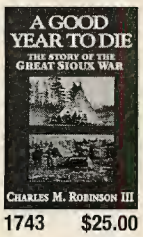

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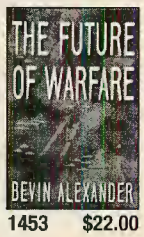

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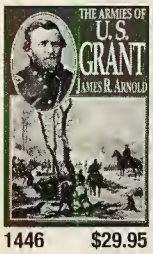

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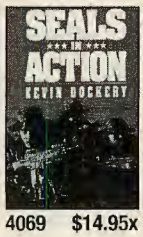

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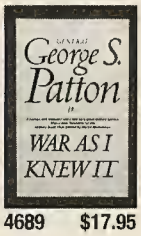

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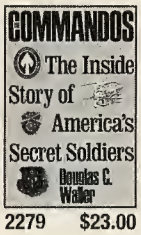
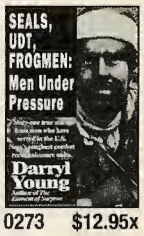


2279 $23.00



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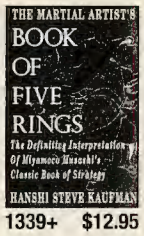

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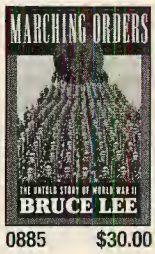

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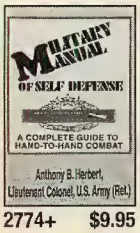

2774+ $9.95

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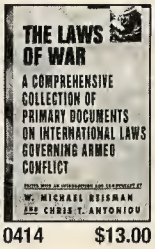
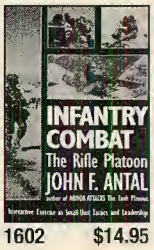
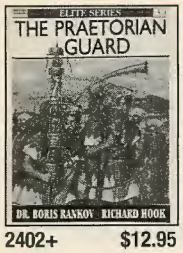


0414 $13.00

3087 $24.95

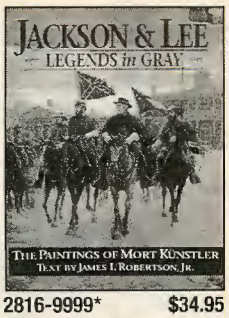


1602 $14.95

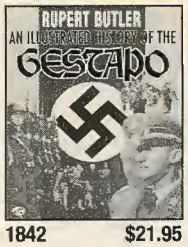


2402+ $12.95

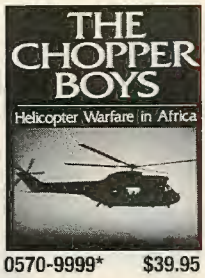
2014-9999* $40.00



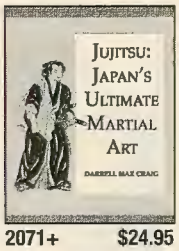
2816-9999* $34.95



1842 $21.95



0570-9999* $39.95



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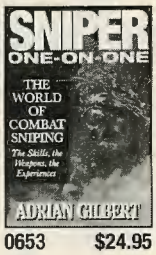

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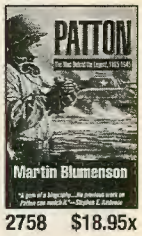

2758 $18.95x

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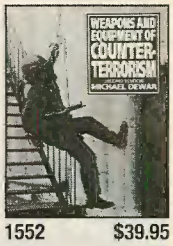

1552 $39.95

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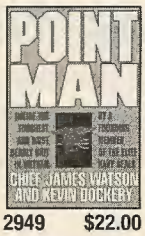

2949 $22.00

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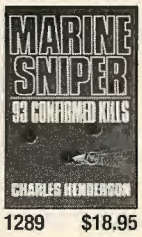

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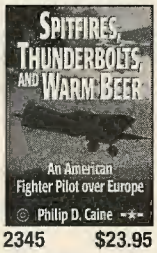
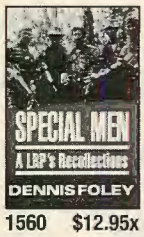


2345 $23.95



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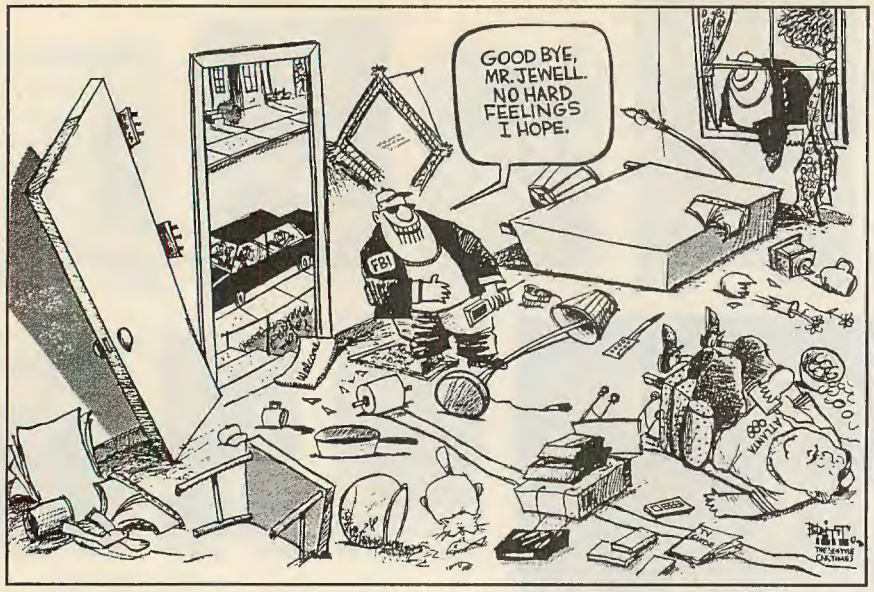

now executive VP for sales and marketing. Peter Laine, most recently with Casco, Inc., is now KA-BAR's operations manager. KA-BAR's home office is now 1116 East State Street, Dept. SOF, Olean, NY 14760; phone: 716-372-5952. The sales office is 35-A N. Chillicothe Rd., Dept. SOF, Aurora, OH 44202; phone 216-562-8422. Their toll-free information number is 800-282-0130.

S-L-O-W LEARNERS

Last June the "Learning" Channel aired a show "Survivalists: Gun Militias In America." Except for the awkward title ("gun" militias? As opposed to what? "Sharp sticks and stones" militias?), it sounded as if it might be worth viewing, but turned out to be some *very* poor journalism. The last segment turned out to be film footage of a "mercenary" training camp conducted by the late Mitch WerBell III — who died in 1983!

The next time you see or hear such demonstrable distortions of fact, gripe to the Federal Communication Commission's Mass Media Bureau. Their phone is 202-418-2600; fax: 202-418-2828.

DRIVE ON, CANADIAN AIRBORNE

Our Canadian cousins lost their most highly trained unit when the Canadian Airborne Regiment was disbanded in 1995 as a result of the flap over incidents of illegal hazing and an isolated, but tragic, beating death of a captured Somali thief. When the regiment was disbanded, the plan was to re-institute it as smaller detachments attached to other units.

Pride in the Canadian Airborne is still strong. The accomplishments of the many are not negated by the misdeeds of the few. You can show support for our Canadian Airborne bros and make new friends by joining the Can-Am Airborne Branch, Canadian Airborne Forces Association. Contact Jennie Michelle Berkeley, 116-110 Eugenie Street West, Windsor, Ontario N8X 4Y6, Canada; fax: 519-966-3392.

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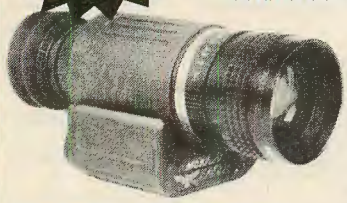

Hand hold or camera mount this versatile night vision surveillance pocketscope. Includes everything you need to operate. Optional accessories facilitate mounting to still and video cameras. Shown above with 35mm camera, which is not included.

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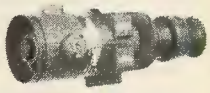

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AN/PVS-7
Infantryman's Night Vision Goggle
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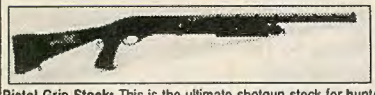
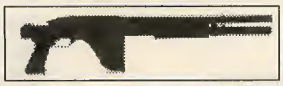
Choate Machine & Tool Shotgun Stocks

Pistol Grip Stock• This is the ultimate shotgun stock for hunters, law enforcement and competition shooters. It reduces felt recoil to make follow-up shots faster and more accurate. Single-handed firing is also made easier. It includes a 1" thick rubber recoil pad and a bottom mounted 1" sling swivels. Forend sold separately below.

CM010102 (Black Rem. 870/1100/11-87) $62.75
CM010103 (Camo Rem. 870/1100/11-87) $68.00
CM020102 (Black Mossberg 500/600) $62.75
CM020103 (Camo Mossberg 500/600) $68.00
CM030102 (Black Winchester 1200/1400/Def.) $62.75
CM030103 (Camo Winchester 1200/1400/Def.) $68.00
CM040102 (Black Ithaca 37) $62.75
CM040103 (Camo Ithaca 37) $68.00

Side Folding Stock• This folding stock is made from Dupont Zytel® and 4140 steel. It comes fitted with a 1" recoil pad and two sling loops. The side folding stock MUST (excluding the Winchester-1400) be used with the Choate minimum length forend that is included with the kit.

CM010122 (Black Rem. 870) $95.00
CM010123 (Camo Rem. 870) $103.25
CM020122 (Black Mossberg 500/600) $95.00
CM020123 (Camo Mossberg 500/600) $103.25
CM030122 (Black Winchester 1200/1300) $95.00
CM030123 (Camo Winchester 1200/1300) $103.25
CM040122 (Black Ithaca 37) $95.00
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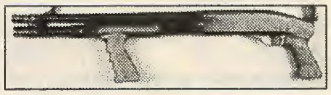


Top Folding Stock• Steel & Dupont Zytel® construction. Forend sold separately below.

CM010112 (Black Rem. 870) $88.00
CM010113 (Camo Rem. 870) $95.50
CM020112 (Black Mossberg 500/600) $88.00
CM020113 (Camo Mossberg 500/600) $95.50
CM030112 (Black Winchester 1200/1300) $88.00
CM030113 (Camo Winchester 1200/1300) $95.50
CM050112 (Black Smith & Wesson 3000) $88.00
CM050113 (Camo Smith & Wesson 3000) $95.50

Pistol Grips (Rear) • Whether you are using your shotgun for house clearing or home protection this pistol grip, made from Dupont Zytel®, is perfect for use in tight spots.

CM010302 (Black Rem. 870) $20.50
CM010303 (Camo Rem. 870) $25.25
CM020302 (Black Mossberg 500/600) $20.50
CM020303 (Camo Mossberg 500/600) $25.25
CM030302 (Black Winchester 1200/1400) $20.50
CM030303 (Camo Winchester 1200/1400) $25.25
CM040302 (Black Ithaca 37) $20.50
CM040303 (Camo Ithaca 37) $25.25
CM050302 (Black Smith & Wesson 3000) $20.50
CM050303 (Camo Smith & Wesson 3000) $25.25
CM060302 (Black Savage 67) $20.50
CM060303 (Camo Savage 67) $25.25
CM190302 (Black H&R/NEA 410/20/16/12) $20.50
CM190303 (Camo H&R/NEA 410/20/16/12) $25.25

Synthetic Forends • These forends match the Choate stocks perfectly. They are made from the same material that allows the stocks to last a lifetime.

CM010202 (Black Rem. 870) $15.75
CM010203 (Camo Rem. 870) $25.50
CM010212 (Black Rem. 1100/11-87) $26.50
CM010213 (Camo Rem. 1100/11-87) $31.00
CM020202 (Black Mossberg 500/600) $15.75
CM020203 (Camo Mossberg 500/600) $20.50
CM030202 (Black Winchester 1200/1300) $15.75
CM030203 (Camo Winchester 1200/1300) $20.50
CM040202 (Black Ithaca 37) $15.75
CM040203 (Camo Ithaca 37) $20.50
CM060202 (Black Savage 67) $15.75
CM060203 (Camo Savage 67) $20.50

Pistol Grip Forends • There are several advantages to having a Pistol Grip Forend. By holding the gun in a more natural position, it is easier to control and "point" shoot. It also protects the shooter's hand from slipping off the forend during rapid fire. Constructed from Dupont Zytel® and will give a lifetime of shooting performance.

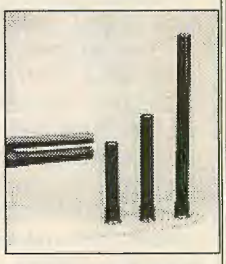
CM010204 (Black Rem. 870) $33.50
CM010205 (Camo Rem. 870) $40.35
CM020204 (Black Mossberg 500/600) $33.50
CM020205 (Camo Mossberg 500/600) $40.35
CM030212 (Black Winchester 1200/1300) $33.50
CM030213 (Camo Winchester 1200/1300) $40.35
CM050212 (Black Smith & Wesson 3000) $33.50
CM050213 (Camo Smith & Wesson 3000) $40.35
CM060204 (Black Savage 67) $33.50
CM060205 (Camo Savage 67) $40.35

Choate Machine & Tool Shotgun Accessories

Increase your firepower with these shotgun magazine extensions. They are great for law enforcement officers and competition shooters. They are also a must for home protection. They are constructed of solid blue steel (Selected models are available with a parkerized finish. See below for availability.) and come complete with spring & installation instructions. The use of these extensions on semi-auto shotguns may be illegal.

7 shot extension fit 18" and longer barrel. $32.50
8 shot extension fit 20" and longer barrel. $32.50
9 shot extension fit 24" and longer barrel. $37.75
10 shot extension fit 26" and longer barrel. .. $43.25

9 & 10 shot extensions come with Sling Swivel base clamps to add needed support. These clamps are recommended for all extensions and are available below. Base clamps will not function on Browning A5 due to its' reciprocating barrel.



Remington 870/1100 Light Weight•

CM010432 (7 Shot)
CM010433 (8 Shot)

Remington 870/1100/11-87•

CM010402 (7 Shot)
CMP10402 (7 Shot Parkerized)
CM010403 (8 Shot)
CMP10403 (8 Shot Parkerized)
CM010404 (9 Shot)
CMP10404 (9 Shot Parkerized)
CM010405 (10 Shot)
CMP10405 (10 Shot Parkerized)

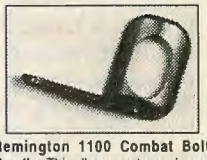
Remington extensions fit 12, 16 & 20 gauge models. all other fit 12 only.

•The new model Remington 870/1100/1187 shotguns have dimples that must be drilled out with 3/16 holes before the spring will extend into the magazine extension. Older model Remingtons will accept the extensions without any modification.

Winchester 1200 & Ranger 120

CM030402 (7 Shot)
CM030403 (8 Shot)
CM030404 (9 Shot)
CM030405 (10 Shot)

We also have extensions for the Mossberg 5500, Winchester Defender, Browning Pump & A-5 and Smith & Wesson shotguns.



Remington 1100 Combat Bolt Handle • This allows you to reach over the shotgun with your left hand and operate the action without taking your finger oft the trigger.

CM011002 ..... $8.75

TacStar®

The SideSaddle®• has proven to be the best way to carry six extra rounds in the most convenient and accessible location for quick reloading without losing sights. It mounts directly on the receiver of the shotgun and holds the shells securely. Simply remove shotshells from shell holder and reload as needed. The SideSaddle® mounting plate is made from aircraft grade aluminum and the shell holder is injection molded from Hytrel®, a durable polymer that resists wear from moisture and temperature extremes. Installation is easy and in most cases, requires no alterations to the shotgun. Instructions and all the necessary mounting hardware are included. For Remington 870 Express and Wingmaster, a minor modification to the shotgun forend is required to prevent interference with the SideSaddle®.

TS01157 (Remington 870/1100/11-87) $27.95
TS01159 (Mossberg 500/600) $27.95
TS01161 (Winchester 1200/1300) $27.95
TS01163 (HK Super 90) $27.95

The Universal Barrel Shroud • is machined from steel with a black oxide finish. It is 13 3/4 inches in length and fits most 12 gauge shotguns with no alterations required. It has a circular friction fit bracket at the rear and a locking clamp at the front for a recoil resistant fit on the barrel. NOTE: A minor modification to the shroud may be necessary depending on the shotgun make and model.

TS01171 Universal Barrel Shroud $21.95

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The EasyLoader • makes your Remington semi-auto the fastest loading shotgun on the market, giving you the advantage while hunting or while competing in any shooting sport. It is easy to install and replaces the tiny chrome carrier release button. Made from the finest 17– 4PH aircraft quality stainless steel, it aids in the loading with either hand, even while running, and perfectly aligns the shells with the magazine tube. Fits both Remington 1100 and 11-87.

ZSG101 (The EasyLoader) $29.95

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SLICK WILLIE WATCH

DROWNING IN FLOOD OF WHITEWATER DEBT

The semi-annual report of the Presidential Legal Expense Trust, set up to help pay the Clintons' legal bills, indicates the Clintons have sunk much deeper in debt, as Whitewater legal bills have rapidly overtaken public-spirited contributions to their defense.

They currently owe $1,738,423 (even after the trust paid out $620,000). In February, when the debt for legal help was $1.2 million, the Clintons said they owed "more than twice as much as we're worth." These remaining bills would be much greater, had not insurance companies paid at least a million of the expenses accrued in the Paula Jones sexual-harassment suit. Most of the remaining debt is owed to the firm of Williams and Connolly, which has been representing the Clintons on Whitewater-related matters.

No problem: Just have Hillary invest in the commodities market and get 100-to-one return...

FILEGATE MAKES FOIA FBI'S GROWTH INDUSTRY

Last month we noted the nearly 900 confidential FBI files, including many on prominent Republicans, spirited away to the White House by the resident dirty trickster, "Chief of White House Security" Craig Livingstone. Since nobody could remember hiring Livingtstone, he no longer works there.

But it's not all bad news, as although Livingstone's one lost job may be reflected in employment stats around election time, there will probably be some 350 additional federal employees at the FBI, thanks to "Filegate." Due to the publicity, people have been thinking about the 9.6 *million* FBI files. Some files, of course, wouldn't fit in a pickup truck; others are very thin. But according to some figuring done by *NewYork Times* writer David Wallis, if the *empty folders* were stacked up, "the paper tower would rise about 20 miles into the sky." And people, wondering what the FBI has on *them*, have flooded the agency with requests under the Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA) to review their own files.

They're looking at a wait of two to four years as there is a backlog of some 15,000 other curious folk who want a peek at their FBI files. The delay is caused by the time required for FBI personnel to go over the file and ensure they have deleted anything likely to harm national security, blow confidential sources, interfere with ongoing investigations, disclose specialized investigative techniques and the like, as agencies are allowed to do under FOIA. So the Senate committee responsible for funding the FBI has voted unanimously to strengthen the FOIA desk at the FBI by as many as 350 additional workers.

CIA PROBES GUN/DRUG SMUGGLING IN MENA

CIA Inspector General Frederick P. Hitz is investigating allegations of drug and arms smuggling at the Mena, Ark., airport when Bill Clinton

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was governor. The investigation was requested by House Banking Committee Chairman Jim Leach (R-Iowa), whose panel is examining charges involving laundering of drug money generated at Mena, and a variety of other allegations about Mena from a collection of Arkansas law-enforcement officials, and others. Interest was recently spurred by publication of the book *Boy Clinton* by *American Spectator* Editor R. Emmett Tyrrell, in which the author cites as sources Arkansas state troopers, who alleged Clinton knew about CIA operations and drug smuggling at Mena. Clinton said he had nothing to do with any activities at Mena; White House spokesman Mark Fabiani said that "Mena is the darkest backwater of the right-wing conspiracy industry."

FORMER SUPPORTER SAYS CLINTON ABANDONED GAYS

According to a recently published book by homosexual David Mixner, *Stranger Among Friends*, Bill Clinton sold out his homosexual supporters in part to curry the respect of the military. Mixner says the White House barred him after he publicly protested Clinton's renege on a 1992 pledge to let homosexuals openly serve in the military. Noting that homosexuals who formerly supported Clinton are deserting him, *The Washington Times* says that this time around, ACT-UP (AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power) is running Washington organizer Steve Michael for president. Last election, Mixner helped the Clinton campaign raise more than $1 million, and aided in drawing homosexuals' support away from Democratic rival Paul Tsongas.

Lack of support? Maybe the honeymoon's just over.

BILL'S BUREAUCRATS BUDGET BEAUCOUP BUCKS FOR BUGGERY

To the consternation of social conservatives, a federally funded $280,000 study through the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease will seek to determine if a chemical widely used in sexual lubricants makes anal sex safer for homosexuals.

We don't make this stuff up, folks. Dr. Connie Celum, lead investigator, is recruiting 35 male-homosexual couples (25 HIV-negative, monogamous couples, and 10 HIV-positive, non-monogamous couples, please) in Seattle. AIDS activists also want it "discussed openly by Clinton administration officials ... and conducted ... in San Francisco and in New York and Washington, D.C."

Yeah, *especially* in Washington, D.C.

COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

Ruger's Rugged Police Carbine

Text & Photo by Frank W. James

When it comes to police long guns there is a big difference between those used in North America and those found in Europe. In Europe, tradition has always placed a submachine gun in the hands of an armed constable or gendarme. In the United States, the long gun most often seen in the hands of a uniformed officer is the pump-action 12-gauge shotgun. Each has shortcomings, but recognition of a need for something midway between these two has sparked interest in the police carbine.

Many have voiced a demand for a short, light and rugged carbine to supplement the law-enforcement officer's sidearm for increased range, firepower and accuracy. Ruger recently unveiled their attempt to meet that need: the Ruger Police Carbine.

The shotgun, despite its mystique, is limited in range and slow to reload. Additionally, it is difficult for smaller officers to manage. The FBI recognized this and purchased a significant number of semiauto-only MP5 submachine guns, but that was not a perfect solution.

Consequently, many have voiced a demand for a short, light, carbine to supplement the officer's sidearm to provide a means of increased range, firepower, and accuracy. Sturm, Ruger & Co. recently unveiled and demonstrated a new short rifle intended for law-enforcement applications that may fill this demand. The new carbine was demonstrated at the Secret Service Pistol Tournament near Beltsville, Md., where *SOF* put it through its paces at the federal training facility.

At first appearance, the prototype Ruger Police Carbine looks like a cross between the Ruger 10/22 rimfire carbine and the Marlin Camp Carbine. According to Ruger law-enforcement sales rep, John Visintini, the Ruger Police Carbine will be available in two calibers: .40 S&W and 9x19mm Parabellum. Our test weapon was chambered for the 9mm round.

One of the most common complaints heard about the Marlin Camp Carbine is that it wasn't "squad-car proof." Even short tours of duty in the average patrol car results in broken plastic parts on the Camp Carbine. It's a neat idea for the law-enforcement market, but experience has shown the Marlin is not up to the daily stresses and abuse routinely handed out to a rack-mounted police duty firearm.

The Ruger Police Carbine is stout. There is a total of 52 parts, and, except for the stock, none of the major ones are synthetic. Ruger is a company with a reputation for building Mack Truck-type guns.

The test carbine was equipped with a Bushnell variable power telescopic sight and Ruger rings. The prototype also had a simple hinged, u-notch blade, rear sight that folds into a sculptured protective fence. This, however, is a feature that may change between the prototype and production models. The installation of a ghost-ring sight complete with protective ears is anticipated.

The front sight is a simple ramped blade with protective ears on either side, similar to the front sight found on the U.S. Army M-1 Carbine. Although there was not time to remove the scope and work with the iron sights, obvious care and thought had been given to adequate protection for these essential instruments.

Barrel length is 16.25 inches, and avoids any NFA "short-barreled" classification. This will allow sales to the general public, but there are law-enforcement advantages as well. The many H&K MP5SFs (the semiauto version of the MP5) in law-enforcement arms rooms across the country require NFA registration and paperwork. The Ruger Police Carbine will be more attractive to many police administrators.

The rifling twist for the Ruger Police Carbine is different for the two listed calibers: one turn in 10 inches for 9mm, and one in 16 inches for the .40 S&W version.

The synthetic stock is made from DuPont "Zytel," matte black in color. Length of pull is 14 inches. Overall length of the Ruger carbine is 34.75 inches and the weight unloaded is approximately 6 pounds, 4 ounces for the 9mm version. The .40 S&W model is listed with an empty weight of 1 ounce less. When fully loaded the 9mm version weighs 6 pounds, 11 ounces, and that's 2 ounces heavier than the fully loaded .40 caliber model. The Ruger Police Carbine is not a heavy firearm and its balance and short length allows the operator to quickly mount the weapon when the need arises.

The designers clearly spent some time analyzing the needs of a police carbine and have included an internal firing-pin block, and a bolt lock, as well as the required manual safety. The manual safety is a cross bolt located behind the trigger. It functions by blocking the trigger mechanism — similar in many ways to the cross-bolt safety found on many popular sporting arms. Additionally, it should be easy to train the troops to stand at port-arms with their finger on the engaged cross-bolt safety, and not on the trigger.

The internal firing-pin block is provided to eliminate the accidental discharge that can occur when some open-bolt submachine guns are dropped and the blow dislodges the bolt sufficiently to chamber a round and fire the gun. The internal firing-pin safety is now often required in police sidearms because of liability judgments. Ruger's designers have wisely included it in a firearm specifically designed for police sales.

The Ruger Police Carbine bolt locks to the rear after the last round has been fired. On the left side of the receiver is the bolt release. If you've spent any time with either an AR-15 or M-16 it's easy to understand and operate. The bolt handle protrudes from the right side of the receiver, has a slight curve and is easy to grasp.

Magazine capacity for the Ruger Police Carbine is listed as 10

rounds, or 15 rounds in 9mm, and 10 or 11 rounds in .40 S&W. Obviously, the inclusion of 10-round magazines indicates the possibility of civilian sales to the sporting-arms market. The magazines themselves are those used in the P-series line of semiauto pistols from Ruger — and *only* Ruger magazines are compatible.

Ruger's weapon meets the requirements found at the top of any department's list detailing the ideal police carbine: ruggedness and reliability. The ideal police carbine must be simple to operate — Ruger's is. It must be light-recoiling. The Ruger Police Carbine offers a significant advantage here over the shotgun.

Any police carbine should offer a demonstrated increase in accuracy and firepower. The test gun was extremely accurate. Rapid fire made a hole in the target at 25 yards no bigger than 2 inches across.

But it may not hold an advantage in firepower. The limit will be simply the amount of ammunition held in the first magazine of the gun. If the officer is equipped with a sidearm other than a Ruger of the same caliber and magazine, the advantage that comes naturally with a pistol-compatible police carbine is severely diminished after that first magazine.

Without the ability to use the spare magazine on the officer's duty belt, this carbine offers only the advantage of range and accuracy over the standard police riot gun. And without side-arm magazine compatibility, this pistol-caliber carbine offers little advantage over previously seen carbines in better, more effective rifle calibers like the 5.56mm NATO, or even the 7.62x39mm Russian round.

Granted, the Ruger offers a faster reload than the standard shotgun, but if the spare 12-gauge ammo is carried on the weapon, proper training will make the reloads come naturally and quickly whenever the officer moves to cover.

A carbine of this type is definitely needed in law enforcement today, but Ruger's parochial view toward marketing has delivered only a 90-percent solution. If they were a little more open-minded, it would be easy to get that final 10 percent. Then, the vast majority of police officers could use this carbine effectively and perform a tactical reload behind cover using the magazine on their duty belt.

Now, that would be progress — and what everyone needs in a police carbine.

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I WAS THERE

Morons On Our Team

by Robert D. Charlton

As the detachment medical NCO on a Special Forces A-Team, I participated in many more misguided operations than I care to remember. There is one memory, however, which refuses to sink peacefully into the blessed abyss of forgetfulness.

We were in the Republic of Korea for one of the many joint US/ROK exercises. Mission: Infiltrate Blue Team's area by static line parachute and conduct operations against ground targets.

Our infil was to take place after four hours of NOE (Nap Of the Earth) flight. NOE requires an aircraft to fly as low as possible, following every contour of the ground below. The resulting ride simply defies description. Supposedly, this hides the plane from radar by camouflaging it amidst ground clutter. Personally, I think that it was a procedure hatched by a sadistic Air Force officer as payback for having to deposit us behind "enemy lines."

Our surveyed drop zone was 3 klicks long, and a klick and a half wide. It was surrounded by mountains and a river ran down one side. A pilot would have to be blind to miss it.

The big night finally arrived. As we approached the MC-130 Hercules to embark on our journey, we noticed that a Korean SF team was already on board. During exercises it is common to use one plane to infil two teams at separate locations, so we didn't think much of it. We had our own troubles to ponder. Some Einstein had strapped a pallet to the tailgate which left us with about a foot and a half wide walkway to precariously advance ourselves, and our individual equipment loads weighing 150 pounds, out the tail.

Once aboard, we nodded curtly to our counterparts, trying to convince them that we were images of John Wayne.

We strapped in, watched the tailgate close, then felt the plane ascend. After 20 minutes, the pilot, with what I am certain was a cruel laugh of glee, began our NOE flight.

Thirty minutes later we realized the full extent of our troubles when the first in the stick of Koreans power-puked his cookies. *Kim chee* smells bad enough the first time around, but recycled in the confines of an enclosed area the odor is above and beyond *any* call of duty.

The next three and a half hours seemed an eternity of suffering and despair. Nothing that could happen to us could be worse than what we were enduring on this flight. As we rigged for the jump, I remember thinking, through a haze of nauseous agony, how grateful I was that my hands were familiar enough with the procedure to operate on their own. My mind was hostage to the lust for clean, fresh air.

The time of deliverance was close at hand as the tailgate began its descent. We croaked through our jump commands, anxiously anticipating the green light. This was to be a CARP (Computer Assisted Release Point) jump. The computer is supposed to keep track of *exactly* where the plane is, and advise the pilot when to switch on the green light. Whether the "driver" pays attention to said computer is another bowl of rice. Essentially, we were blind-jumping at the discretion of the pilot — there were no ground markers on which the jumpmaster could sight.

courtesy Marty Kufus

We half-joked that the pilot had messed up so badly that the Air Force would probably determine that he needed more practice — and that *we* would be ordered to *volunteer* to be his jumpers.

As we awaited the green light, the engines suddenly went full-throttle, and the nose of the plane turned up sharply. The force of the "Gs" nearly glued us to the floor as the bird gained altitude. We quickly leveled out, but before we had a chance to analyze what had just happened, the red light disappeared and the green blinked on. Our training (combined with the overwhelming inclination to breathe) took over and the 12 of us dutifully waddled down the catwalk beside the pallet and plummeted from the tailgate into the blackness of the night and the roar of the wind.

The clarity that comes with a night-time, combat equipment jump is amazing. From the "GO" command through the PLF, your mind is perfectly focused.

My first thought upon exiting the aircraft over that fateful DZ in Korea was that our airspeed was way too fast. I was hoping that it wasn't fast enough to blow a gore on my chute. The opening shock nearly ripped me in two. Looking up, I checked my canopy, said a quick prayer of thanks for its wholeness, and grabbed the steering toggles.

The next step in the five points of performance for military parachuting is to keep a sharp lookout below so that you can avoid lower jumpers. Usually, looking down includes finding the best place to land, which is always as close to the parachute turn-in point as you can maneuver. As I peered downward I noticed a large white object hurtling *upward.* I choked on a choice expletive before smashing into the side of a mountain, narrowly avoiding a granite boulder the size of a small cabin. I didn't have time to release my equipment, and was launched on a head-over-heels descent down the hillside. My sole thought was a line out of *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid,* "Morons. I've got morons on my team."

The parachute finally snagged some shrubbery, and halted my downward tumble. As I lay there, I cursed the absence of a Stinger missile to loose at the rapidly retreating Hercules. I began to pat portions of my anatomy fully expecting something to be AWOL. Amazement grew by the second as each part reported intact and operational. (Oh, but to survive long enough to castrate a certain C-130 pilot!) The rush of having sidestepped death quickly turned to concern for my teammates. Rather than stumble up the mountainside, searching for bodies, I wandered to

Continued on page 73

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WORLD SITREP

1

UNITED STATES

CIA Director Deutch predicts inevitable, foreign "information attacks" to rob and cripple U.S. computer systems running military, commerce and infrastructure; urges government and business upgrade security.

GAO reports year-long Bosnia op will cost $500 million *above* Pentagon's original $3-billion estimate. Joint Chiefs Chairman Shalikashvili says greater counterterrorist planning and prep will be SOP for overseas missions — even if demands on personnel, transport, logistics and intelligence increase.

Pentagon admits at least 400 U.S. troops were within 5 kms of Iraqi ammo dump containing sarin and mustard gas (unknowingly) blown up by combat engineers in Gulf War. Recent Third World ops show Army riot-control doctrine and training are obsolete.

2

RUSSIA

During funding crunch, some Northern Fleet submarines generate revenue hauling oil and potatoes under ice in remote areas, Norwegian study reports. Citing national security, Israeli officials ask Moscow to halt commercial sales of high-quality satellite photos of Israel.

Rebels' summer offensive to capture Grozny brings worst fighting this year; National Security Adviser Lebed, visiting Chechnya, is appalled at hungry, lice-infested Russian soldiers used as cannon fodder. Russian, civilian, and rebel deaths total in the hundreds.

5

CUBA

Largest Russian signal-intercept base in the world, near Havana, monitors U.S. radio and telephone traffic for sensitive data on business, merchant shipping, military, NASA, and even possible espionage recruits, DIA reports. Moscow pays Cuba for the base in timber, fuel, and equipment parts.

6

IRAQ

International embargo on Iraqi oil is lifted after Clinton approves removal of Gulf War sanction; U.N. officials say Baghdad to use oil revenue for purchases of food, medical supplies and other civilian goods. Iraqi exile, former military-intelligence general, says Baghdad has 40 ballistic missiles and numerous HE, chemical and biological warheads — more than U.N. estimated. At least 100 army officers reportedly are executed following failed coup against Saddam Hussein.

11

NORTH KOREA

Defectors report that famine worsens, with suicides increasing and families abandoning ill or elderly to die. Failing economy here devastates black markets in adjacent areas of China.

10

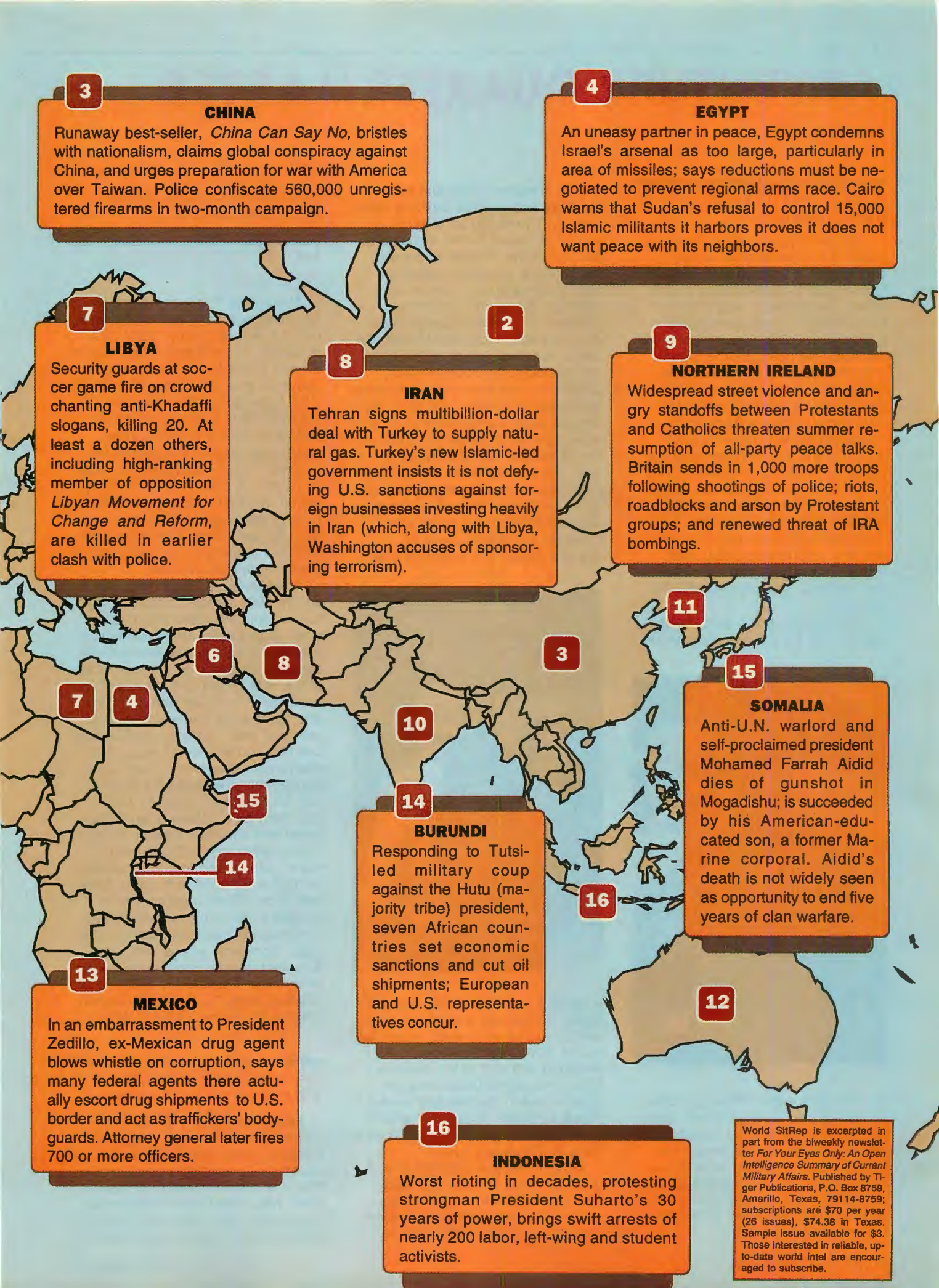
INDIA

India refuses to join global nuclear test ban; says it will not sign any treaty until five declared nuclear powers — America, Britain, China, France and Russia — vow to eliminate all such weapons. (Israel, India and its rival, Pakistan, are undeclared, but believed to have nukes.)

12

AUSTRALIA

Upgrade planned for Cold War-era intelligence facility at Pine Gap, manned by Australian and U.S. personnel. The two defense departments want rapid assessment of threats in areas of Taiwan and Korean peninsula.



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ADVENTURE QUARTERMASTER

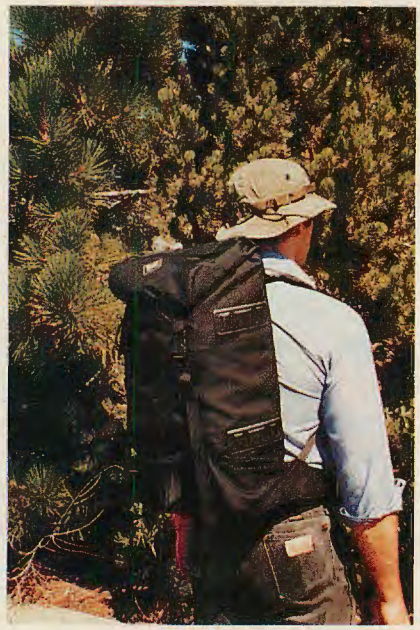
B-WEST: BRILLIANT ENGINEERING

Sooner or later we old grunts crash at the intersection of two curves: our increasing LBE and *de*creasing LBA (load-bearing ability). When that happens, you'd better look either for more comfortable gear or a younger squaw to help with the load. We opted for the former, and have spent a couple months field-testing one of the best rucksacks we've ever seen: the "Inter City," from B-West's Back Packer Travel series. We never thought we'd use the term "brilliant engineering" in reference to a rucksack, but in this case nothing else fits. The Inter-City is the toughest, most comfortable, most ergonomically designed ruck we've ever worn — and at a voluminous 3,050 cubic inches' capacity — that we can now carry all day. But that's just the beginning.

Conceptually like a kid's "transformer" toy, the Inter-City unzips/un-

buckles and re-assembles into one of several new configurations; handily, logically and without hassles. Depending on the requirement, it can be a full pack, daypack or soft-side suitcase. All are comfortable, almost excessively strong, and in no mode do features of the other modes interfere with the use at hand.

The shoulder straps and belly band are well padded and very comfortable: Everything on this unit in any of its modes is fully adjustable for any wearer. Readily accessible but securely zippered pockets galore, inside and out. Exterior compression straps and comfortable carrying handles for luggage mode. All major seams double-stitched, the unit is beautifully made in South Africa of Duracore 1000N in black, cammo or dark blue-grey. In addition to its special features, the Inter City has the usual complement of straps, flaps, zips and buckles found on lesser models. We have given it hard use and abuse through several countries in the past couple months and it performed beyond any reasonable expectation. For those who travel far and fast by plane or shank's ponies, the Inner City's as



good as it gets. For young drive-on types, B-West has a larger iteration called the Intercontinental, plus a full line of SOF/special-purpose rucks designed and built to the absolute highest standard. Ours is not yet even broken in, and we fully expect it to last a lifetime. Everybody should have at least one item that's the best there is. This one's ours.

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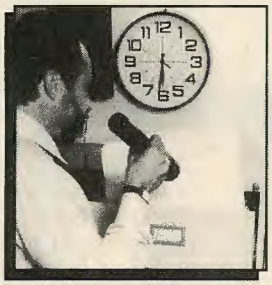


Real Telephone Security

Tap Nullifier defeats telephone transmitters and hardwired taps on your premises, *stops* telephones from being used to monitor your room conversations. (FCC approved model) Only **$695.** (ship $15) More powerful *export only* model **$2,695.**

The Scrambler

Telephone Scramblers
Medium level for single line telephones. **$499.** per pair (2 units) (ship $15.) Cellular Scramblers, fits Motorola flip phones. **$695.** each (minimum of two required) The Scrambler fits all types of telephones. (medium security). **$298.** each (ship $20.)

High Level Telephone & Fax Encryptors *$2,900. each*

Fax Scrambler **$995.** per unit minimum of two required (ship $30)

Telephone Voice Changer Plugs into single telephone Only. **$69.** (ship $5.)

Voice Changer Telephone **$99.** (ship $7.)

Call Screener Device (not caller I.D.)Caller enters code before telephone will ring. Stops late night and nuisance calls.**$95.** (ship $7.)

Block Caller I.D. Your name and number is automatically reveeled when you make a telephone call. This device automatically blocks this information. **$69.** (ship $5)

Professional *Body Worn* Video Systems

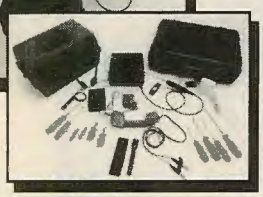
Fanny pack system B&W includes 8 mm mini VCR recorder **$2,995.** Sunglasses with color camera built-in **$2,895.** w/micro 8 mm deck **$4,095.** Video briefcase **$2,995.**

FREE REPORT!
WHY TAP DETECTORS DON'T WORK!

Countersurveillance *Debugging Equipment*

Basic Countermeasures System
Everything you need to "sweep" your home, includes video on taps & bugs **$1,495.** (ship/insur. $35.)

Advance Countermeasures Systems
For professionally sweeping homes & small business. Get started offering these services. Make $300-500 a day. **$2,945.** (ship $45.)



New! Automatic-computerized bug/transmitter/carrier/current/ laser Detector OSCAR system **$12,500.** (ship/insur. $65.)

Audio Jammer.
Produces LOUD random generated noise to jam microphones to protect your room conversations. **$129.** (ship $7.)

Body Wire Detector.
Device silently warns you if someone is wearing a body wire or a transmitter (bug) is in a room. Cigarette pack size, warns only you. **$695.** (ship/insur. $15.)

Telephone Number Decoders

Micro Max (2nd generation), displays numbers dialed when playing back a recording of a telephone conversation. **$169.** (ship $7.)

Touch Tone Decoder with printer (touch tone & pulse) attaches anywhere along the telephone line (alligator clips included) prints telephone number called, time, length of call, etc. **$299.** (ship $20.)

Telephone Room Monitor

Call from any telephone in the world and listen into your home or business. Requires separate "secret" telephone number. Alligator clips enable you to attach the "ear" to the telephone line in the room you want to monitor. Match box size. **$399.** (ship/insur. $10.)

Body Wire - Room Monitor *Transmitter & Receiver Set*

Small pencil-eraser size microphone picks up even whispers 10 feet away, the cigarette pack size, 9 volt battery powered transmitter then sends the clean, clear voice signal to the Crystal controlled matching receiver up to 1,000 feet away!! Set includes transmitter and receiver with interface for a recorder. Not a Kit! In use by P.I.'s and Law Enforcement. FCC type approved. EP-151 only **$299.** (ship $15.)

Exclusive Videos!

Telephone Taps & Room Bugs, How they're done, How to defeat them
60 minutes VHS **$49.95** (ship $4.)

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Covert Video Operations Course
Secrets of Success - complete course (equipment, planning, installation, monitoring techniques), a complete course - world wide exclusive **$199.** (ship $15.)

Special Equipment

Night Vision: ***Hand held***
(Russian) 10K light amplification, 4.3x magnification w/IR. **$419.** (ship/insur. $20) 60,000 amplification 5.2x, Professional unit w/IR. **$1,228.** (ship/insur. $35.)

Goggles **35K** amplification w/IR. (Russian) **$849** (ship/insur. $25.).

Total Destruction Cross-cut Shredder
Turns your secrets into tiny pieces of confetti. **$699.** (ship $45.)

Protect Yourself - Stungun shoots high voltage darts up to 15' away!
Air Taser - 40,000 volts, don't let an attacker get close. No license required to purchase. Check state laws. **$249.** (ship $15.)

Hand Held Weapons / Metal Detector
Professional model **$249.** (ship$15.)

Walkthrough Weapons / Metal Detector
$3,995 (ship $175.)

Credit Card Size Recorder will record up to 6 hours **$499.**

Briefcase Recording System **$669.** (ship $20.)

Vehicle Tracking System **$2,695.** (ship $35.)

Mini-Room Microphone w/Built-in Amplifier.
Smaller than a pencil eraser plugs into a VCR recorder. 25' long. **$99.** (ship $5.). 100' **$195.** (ship $10.)

Micro Cassette, Auto Reverse 6 hours
Recording time **$229.** (ship $10.)

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tional flights — none of it soft, and all of it heavy — then used it as a traveling warehouse in Europe, and this inexpensive general-purpose bag performed like a champ. It was handy to roll up and stuff when empty, but when it was the container instead of the containee it would hold more than I could pick up and the handles, straps and self-healing YKK zippers never groaned.

This Two-Pocket Gear Bag (main compartment, side and end pockets) is a straightforward, functional unit of great strength (1000 Denier Cordura) with zippers, straps and D-rings where you need them. They have 17 different bags — plus a 50-page catalog of other tactical gear. Good equipment: You'll never have to use their lifetime guarantee. Bagmaster Manufacturing, Dept. SOF, 2731 Sutton Ave., St. Louis, MO 63143; phone: 800-950-8181; fax: 314-781-3363.

PAPAGO'S "ANYTIMER"

Arizonans and others living in such climes know: Sometimes the *concealed* part of concealed carry can be difficult in hot-weather dress. Unless you're one of those who insists on wearing his cammies to K-Mart, discretion is an important factor in carrying concealed. One very good option is to carry your concealed handgun (or stungun) out in the open, in your hand, sheathed in an appropriate case. Gals often carry in their purse, but since few guys carry purses, around here anyway, the best available option is the new Anytimer® by Papago Concealment Systems. The Anytimer is a

fully functional Daytimer® daily organizer as seen on the streets everywhere in the hands of businessmen on the go who need a carrier for papers but don't need an attache case.

The Anytimer, however, features custom inserts to hold your favorite among more than 175 handguns. They are interchangeable and keep your handgun quickly accessible.

In addition to the custom pocket for your handgun and the fully functional calendar-type organizer, there is space for a spare magazine and/or speedloader. Inside the cover is a leather pocket for a pad of paper, slots for credit or business cards, and a clear-view pocket for credentials or a weapons permit.

Very solidly made from heavy leather, the unit is beautifully finished with soft-grained outer leather, and has solid fittings, zipper and carrying strap. A wag from a preceding generation observed that "an armed society is a polite society."

The discreet Anytimer is an excellent way to go armed, but go politely. Available from Mick Grise at Papago Concealment Systems, Dept. SOF, 2708 N. 68th Street, Suite 2, Scottsdale, AZ 85257; phone: 800-320-1395.

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An adaptation of the original TASER, the **AT-1** uses a blast of compressed air to propel tiny darts to the target. A T-Wave electrical charge (that will penetrate 2 inches of leather clothing) immediately causes the target to lose control of his neuromuscular system, incapacitating him in a split second.

The **AT-1** also acts as a regular stun gun. $249 with an instructional video, practice target, instruction book, two dart cassettes, battery and power handle packed in a sturdy storage case. Extra cassettes are available. No registration required but we do need a copy of your driver's license before we will ship.

GET IN FAST!!

At long last, the **AGO Automatic Garage Door Opener** is available. This electronic code grabber opens most Genie and Stanley garage doors and electric gates in a few minutes or less. (It will not open some brands).

The **AGO** is a miracle tool for SWAT people, Locksmiths, and security personnel. Note: sold only for legal purposes, may be illegal in some applications check your local laws!

Get an **AGO** for your very own while it we are still able to advertise it! $499.00.

SURREPTITIOUS SUPPLIES?

Surveillance, counter surveillance, audio surveillance, video surveillance, people trackers, covert entry equipment, night vision, cellular interception, untraceable phone calls, electronic trackers, the world's smallest video cameras and transmitters, encryption, scramblers, and devices to defeat both, aerial photos of anyplace. *The* MASTER LIST of information suppliers, specialized newsletters, OEM lock picks, thru wall listeners, reverse engineers, Spy Shops, alternate ID's, non-lethal weapons., program crackers, and more.

The Covert Catalog provides hundreds of addresses, sample pages, catalog prices and recommendations that will save you money on everything from break-in books to undetectable bugs. The latest and the best. Designed for PI's, cops, security folk and those with a need to know...

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MINIPICK

We are proud to offer the *brand new* **MiniPick**. Designed from the ground up as a lock pick the MiniPick offers a slick aluminum body and proprietary pick needles designed to maximize the unit's effectiveness. It's slim design offers efficiency in a small package—the motor does not have as many RPM's as larger electronic picks but it's a real bargain at $129.95.

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HIGH LEVEL TAP FINDER

Don't Place Your Security on a Cheap "Bug Detector" or "Defeater"

You can't bend the laws of physics, cheap units just don't work.

The C3I is the only device in the world that will automatically show the presence of professional or law enforcement taps including bridges, slaves and splits. Patented $599.99.

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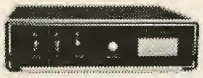
The latest **3rd Generation Night Vision Scope** from the world's largest supplier of night vision equipment—now at a *special low price.* The **ITT Night Enforcer** is a palm sized, 16 ounce, crystal clear, gen 3 (minimum gain 20,000) NVD, designed specifically for law enforcement.

The brightness and amplification of this scope will amaze you! Includes the optional accessory pack with carrying case, tripod adapter, very powerful IR laser, and a 1–6x magnifying lens assortment for only $1995. (*New*, NO surplus or seconds.)

SURVEILLANCE /COUNTER SURVEILLANCE



Automatic Tap Stopper Just designed, first time on the market, this state of the art unit stops most phone tap attacks in their tracks. Beats/defeats drop-out relays, auto recorder starters, VOX recorders, infinity transmitters, X-phones, room mics (on phone lines) hot hook switches, auto transmitters and most free running transmitters! More Bang for your buck! The ATS will flat out prevent almost every possible telephone tap or room audio (via the phone or phone line) bug. does not interfere with normal calling. If you value your privacy you *need* the ATS! $495.

BLACKTRACKING—THE VIDEO

How to follow anyone, anywhere. The first hands-on, hard and fast guide to the black arts of physical surveillance and counter surveillance. Includes:

- Side-by-side comparisons of 6 of the world's best electronic automobile tracking systems *including* the latest FBI unit and the brand new (and bloody amazing!) GPS real time trackers.
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- A nothing-short-of-amazing, *passive* bumper box that records everywhere the target vehicle has gone in the past few days, where it stopped, as well as how long it was parked in any given location.
- Low cost, computerized tracking units for cars, packages, people, or your favorite animal. Which, where, why, and how much. Even where to *rent* them...
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- Simple countermeasures to keep your car/body tracker free as well as a conversation with MOSSAD—an agent shows exactly how to tell if you are under surveillance plus a how-to guide called "lose the watchers..." Real stuff from running a route to final options. $59.95.

It's been exactly 10 years since the best selling lock opening and entry tape ever was produced... Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the water...

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- **Swat Openings**—Speed vs. damage, from bombs to padlock poppers, snake picks to jam spreaders—getting in with speed and a degree of finesse.

What's New, What's Hot.
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Shotgun News 50th Anniversary SWEEPS

Shotgun News is celebrating its 50th Anniversary... and they want you to share the excitement.

1946–1996 anniversary

As part of the festivities, *Shotgun News* is holding a giant year-long sweepstakes with prizes valued at over $27,000. Monthly prize winners will be announced throughout the year. Grand Prize and First Prize winners will be selected in March, 1997.

GRAND PRIZE—1997 Jeep Wrangler or $15,000 cash.

TRIP PRIZE—Five-day, Four-night Luxury Vacation for up to four people in a restored seventeenth century Hacienda at Alamos, Sonora, Mexico or **Five-day, Four-night Dove Hunting Trip** for up to four people at one of Mexico's top hunting lodges in Navajoa, Sonora.

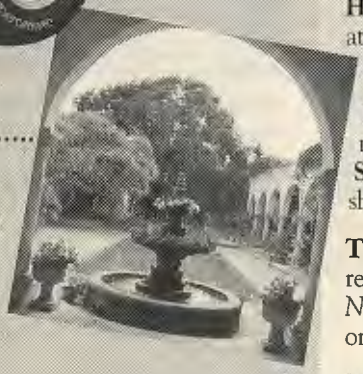
MONTHLY PRIZES—Eleven monthly drawings with **First and Second Place Winners** of rifles, shotguns, handguns or accessory kits.

TO ENTER – Simply subscribe or renew your subscription to *Shotgun News*. To enter without subscription or purchase, see Rule 2 below.

SUBSCRIPTIONS – Call us at:

trip prize

Luxury Vacation in Mexico or Dove Hunting Trip in Mexico



monthly prizes

First and Second Place Winners each month

Monthly prizes include rifles, shotguns, handguns, or accessory kits.

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SHOTGUN NEWS SWEEPSTAKES OFFICIAL RULES—NO PURCHASE OR SUBSCRIPTION NECESSARY

1. TO ENTER: Each time you begin or renew a subscription to Shotgun News during the months of March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November or December 1996 or January 1997, you will be automatically entered into a drawing for that month's prize (and subsequent monthly prize drawings) and for the Grand Prize/Trip Prize drawing to be conducted at the close of the program. (Note: If you begin or renew a subscription to Shotgun News between 2/1/97 and 2/4/97 inclusive, you will be eligible for the Grand Prize/Trip Prize only.)

2. TO ENTER WITHOUT PURCHASE OR SUBSCRIPTION: On an Officiel Entry Form only, available by mail as indicated in Rule 2A, hand print your name, address, (including zip code), daytime and evening telephone numbers. Residents of the State of Washington only, need not affix postage to return envelopes.

2A. For each Official Entry Form you wish to be sent by mail, send a separate, self-addressed, stamped #10 envelope to: SHOTGUN NEWS ENTRY FORM REQUEST, P.O. Box 5081, Blair, NE 68009. Requests must be received by 2/11/97. Limit one request per envelope. Completed entry forms must be received at the address listed on the entry form by the last day of each month indicated in Rule 1 to be eligible for that month's prize drawing (and subsequent monthly prize drawings) and/or by 3/11/97 to be eligible for the Grand Prize/Trip Prize drawings.

3. RANDOM DRAWING: Monthly winners will be selected in a random drawing on or about the 20th day of the month following the month of drawing eligibility from among all eligible entries received by D.L. Blair, Inc., an independent judging organization whose decisions are final on all matters related to this program. Grand Prize and Trip Prize winners will be selected in a random drawing conducted on or about 3/12/97 from among all eligible entries received throughout the duration of this program. Winners will be notified by mail. Odds of winning will depend upon the total number of all eligible entries received in a given month for monthly prizes and/or over the course of the entire promotion for the Grand Prize and Trip Prize.

4. PRIZE & APPROXIMATE RETAIL VALUE: (1) Grand Prize consisting of a Shotgun News model new Jeep Wrangler with optional soft-top & doors, AM-FM radio and 5-speed transmission, ($15,000) or $15,000 cash; (1) Trip Prize — A 5-day, 4-night deluxe hunting expedition (White Wing & Morning Dove) in Mexico for four, including air transportation (from major U.S. city), lodging at the "Hacienda Cazadores", three meals per day, guide and transportation to hunting areas. (Shells, licenses, gun permits, guns, etc. not included) ($6,000) OR a 5-day, 4-night Mexican vacation for four in a restored 300-year-old Hacienda, includes air transportation (from major U.S. city), two meals per day, Fiesta, sightseeing and Jeep tours ($6,000). Monthly Prizes: March: (1) 1st Prize — Ishapore Enfield 2 A Rifle plus a Webly & Scott Brass Rare Pistol ($279.90); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Vise Ultimate Pack ($127.98); April: (1) 1st Prize — a Browning Hunter Gold, 12 gauge self-loading shotgun ($700); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Vise Ultimate Pack ($127.98); May: (1) 1st Prize — Schofield Revolver ($795); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Vise Ultimate Pack ($127.98); June: (1) 1st Prize — Model .308 Guardia Civil Spanish Mauser, Caliber .308 Win, complete with sling and muzzle cover in Special Select Condition, plus a Model 98/29 Persian Mauser Caliber 7.92 mm (8 mm Mauser) complete with bayonet & leather sling in Special Select Condition ($459.90); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Vise Ultimate Pack ($127.98); July: (1) 1st Prize — a 1911 A-1 Springfield .45 Caliber ($459); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Vise Ultimate Pack ($127.98); August: (1) 1st Prize — Ishapore Enfield 2A Rifle plus a Model 98K Mauser WWII carbine Caliber 7.92 (8 mm Mauser) with Winter Trigger guard in Special Select Condition ($399.90); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Vise Ultimate Pack ($127.98); September: (1) 1st Prize — a Browning Hunter Gold,12 gauge self-loading shotgun ($700); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Vise Ultimate Pack ($127.98); October: (1) 1st Prize — a 1911 A-1 Springfield .45 Caliber ($459); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Vise Ultimate Pack ($127.98); November: (1) 1st Prize — a Browning Hunter Gold, 12 gauge self-loading shotgun ($700); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Vise Ultimate Pack ($127.98); December: (1) 1st Prize — Parker Knife Collection, Kentucky Derby set of 12 knives, engraved blades each with a different Derby winner, bone handles, framed under glass ($450); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Vise Ultimate Pack ($127.98). January 1997: (1) 1st Prize — a Classic Buffalo Hunters' Sharps Rifle in 45/70 caliber with a 28" heavy octagonal barrel with tang sights recreated by Navy Arms Company, Inc. ($875); (1) 2nd Prize — Coach Gun, side-by-side, 12 gauge Stoeger IGA ($400).

5. GENERAL RULES: Open only to U.S. residents who, as of February 28, 1996, are 21 years or older. Employees of Snell Publishing Co., Inc., Shotgun News, their affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising and promotion agencies and the immediate family members and/or those living in the same household of each are not eligible. Void where prohibited by law. Winner may make no substitution or transfer of prize. All federal, state and local taxes, insurance, licensing, registration and title fees are the sole responsibility of the winner. All federal, state and local laws and regulations apply. Potential winners must execute any required Affidavit of Eligibility/Release of Liability/Prize Acceptance Form within 15 days of attempted notification. Noncompliance within this time period may result in disqualification and an alternate may be selected. Return of any prize notification as undeliverable will result in disqualification and an alternate will be selected. Sponsor reserves the right to substitute prize of equal for greater value. Limit one prize per household (with exception of Grand Prize and Trip Prize). Acceptance of prize constitutes permission to the sponsor and its agencies to use winner's name and/or likeness for purposes of advertising and trade without further compensation, unless prohibited by law. (Note: If hunt expedition is selected by Trip Prize winner, hunt trip must be taken during November 1997. If vacation is selected by trip prize winner it must be taken in November 1997 or between January 2, 1998 and March 31, 1998. Trip Prize must be taken on dates specified by sponsor. Travel blackout dates will apply.) All traveling companions must be 21 years of age or older and will be required to execute a release of liability prior to departure. No mechanically reproduced entries permitted. All firearms will be transferred to the respective winners through federally licensed firearms dealers. All winners must be eligible for firearm's possession under all federal and respective state laws. In the event the sponsor is prohibited from awarding prize to winner as a matter of federal/state/local law or for any reason whatsoever (e.g. felony conviction, licensing requirements, etc.) prize will be awarded to an alternate winner. Not responsible for lost, late, postage due, illegible, damaged or misdirected mail/entries or entries not forwarded to prize headquarters in time for the random drawings. By participating in this promotion, entrants agree to be bound by the Official Rules and the decisions of the judges.

6. For the names of the winners, available after May 31, 1997, send a separate, stamped, self-addressed (#10) envelope to: Shotgun News Winners, P.O. Box 5082, Blair, NE 68009.

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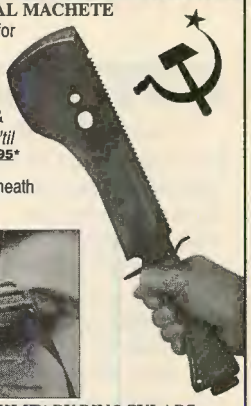

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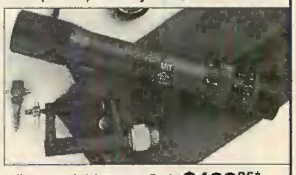

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BILLY'S "GOOD DEALS"

I have been waiting quite awhile for Billy Waugh to contribute his Vietnam experiences to paper ["The Boys Of Bong Son," Sept. '96 *SOF*. He is the soldier's soldier. I served from 1970-2 in SOG as a recon man at Command and Control South and Command and Control North.

It was my fortune at CCN to have Sgt. Maj. Waugh as my recon company's sergeant major. I was always in awe of him and as a "10" [team leader] of RT Indigo and RT Connecticut respected his warrior spirit. I know of no other SGM that ran SOG recon missions and was one of the first to HALO in on a recon mission as a company SGM.

I was the recipient of more than one of Billy Waugh's "good deals" ... I survived and counted myself lucky. It was his attitude that focused my Special Forces career for 25 years.

Master Sgt. Kevin Smith (Ret.)
Oxford, N.C.

ANOTHER HAPPY READER IN BOSNIA

The following letter was sent to Roy Horsey of Upton, Mass., one of many donors in SOF's *Books For the Troops drive. The drive, which recently was completed, has provided nearly 25,000 paperbacks to U.S. troops in Bosnia.*

I have just had the opportunity to read a book you donated to *Soldier Of Fortune* magazine (containing a sticker with your personal address on it), which was sent out to us here in Sarajevo. I do hope you don't mind that an Englishman is writing to you, but the U.S. chaps here have formed a "lending library" of the *SOF* books which they very kindly allow anyone in the [Allied Rapid Reaction Corps] headquarters to read.

I simply wanted to say thank you. I can see from your "once upon a time" comment you realize how much such things are appreciated — and your book is the only one I have found with an address in it. I suppose I am writing to thank you individually as a representative of *all* the kind people who have generously donated books, and to let you know that they are really appreciated by everyone here.

Maj. Tom Mouat

NOT DEAD YET

As a newspaperman who was one of the original subscribers to *SOF*, I know how important a periodical's reputation for accuracy is and how hard *SOF* has worked to deserve and maintain such a reputation for factual reporting. Thus, it is my sad duty to advise you of an error in the Sept. '96 issue.

In the story "Shadows Of Many Doubts" a reference is made to the *late* U.S. senator from Indiana, Birch Bayh. Senator Bayh is still living and, though he lost his senate seat in the "Reagan Landslide" of the 1980 election, has recently served as the chairman of the National Institute Against Prejudice and Violence. Bayh was last year's speaker at the Indiana University graduation commencement and was conferred with an honorary degree at that time. I covered it and photographed him on assignment. ...

H.J. Halterman III
Vincennes, Ind.

SOLDIERS OR COPS?

I am writing regarding your article "Black Suits, Badges & Bradleys" [Aug. '96]. I am retired from the military after 22 years. I began my military career in the intelligence field and subsequently transferred to criminal investigations where I spent the remainder of my career. Therefore I am familiar with both covert operations and criminal law.

I worked with the *Posse Comitatus* law off and on and I consider it to be a good law. However, based on your article it appears as though our government is attempting to bypass this law by covert use of the military in law enforcement. This can be a very dangerous situation.

Having worked military law enforcement, I noted that when we had to interface with the combat-arms people in security matters, they had a slant toward killing or maiming the individuals that we were attempting to arrest and we in military law enforcement would have to keep them from doing exactly what they were trained to do. With the current bent of certain portions of our law enforcement to clone military training, I can see a danger: Military operations and law-enforcement operations are different and perhaps we are developing situations in law enforcement wherein they will not know the difference and will kill or maim instead of capture.

Military-type training for law enforcement can be a real advantage. ... Our police can learn how to survive in extremely hostile situations but they must consider that they are not in the military and they should not be given *carte blanche* regarding the use of deadly force.

I was surprised to read [in the *SOF* article] that Delta Force is ex-

empt from Posse Comitatus. ... They are in our Army and should not be used at will to enforce law. I am especially suspect of our current Administration when it comes to being in control of this type of force.

One problem I visualize in the use of the military and combat equipment in law enforcement is the overuse of that equipment and manpower. Where are they drawing the line? Are they out looking for opportunities to try out new toys on our citizens? If they were used in places such as Waco, why the secrecy? Secrecy of this type worries me. ... We need media such as *SOF* to keep us informed regarding the abuse or possible future abuse of such force.

Name Withheld by Request
via E-mail

I read your article "Black Suits, Badges & Bradleys." It still disturbs me how members of the ATF or the FBI, or any other type of government agency, could stand "proud" or receive a medal for courage when they aren't good enough to handle any situation without calling in extra help like Delta.

They can't even handle women and children, like at Waco, unless they call out everything to put them over the top. ...

R. Hall
Minerva, Ohio

James L. Pate, in his article ["Black Suits, Badges & Bradleys"], goes on to say the Posse Comitatus Act was passed after the Civil War to prohibit the involvement of the U.S. military in civilian law enforcement. I think about everybody knows what happened after this act was passed: The ... power structure before the Civil War that was taken out of power by the war, got its power back and basically did its damndest to take away all the 14th Amendment rights. ... It is probably one of the most despicable acts ever passed, and as such should probably be eliminated simply in the name of human rights. ...

Yet this despicable act is quoted like holy writ by G. Gordon Liddy, Pate, and others to say that there is something wrong with having the military involved with law enforcement, when the U.S. Constitution, in Article I, Section 8, gives Congress the power "To provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the union, suppress insurrections and repel invasions."

The Constitution goes on further to tell what the militia is. It can be used in the service of the United States when called forth by Congress, and is under the command of the president when it is, otherwise it is apparently under the command of the states. ... In short, the modern-day creature that best fits the description of the militia is the Army National Guard and the U.S. Constitution gives Congress the power to use it in law enforcement. The last I heard, the Army National Guard was a U.S. military force. The Army even used them to shell some Iraqis in the Gulf War.

So, it ain't that there is some great, evil purpose in and of itself for using the military for law enforcement. The U.S. Constitution calls for it.

Roger K. Fike
San Miguel, Calif.

I will attempt to address only the most major flaws of Mr. Fike's bizarre and incorrect viewpoint.

As to his assertion that Article I, Section 8, of the Constitution is justification for enforcement of civilian laws by military troops, Mr. Fike demonstrates a fundamental lack of comprehension about both militias and the Constitution. He fails to mention that there are two types of militias, "unorganized" and "select," and that the National Guard represents

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the select militia. The unorganized militia is, by law, every able-bodied citizen between 14 and 45 who possesses a firearm.

Formation of a permanent standing army, or select militia, was a topic of hot debate among the framers of the Constitution, and strongly cautioned against by many on both sides. That's why, in the same section, it is specified that the Army is funded only two years at a time.

Mr. Fike quotes a portion of Article I, Section 8. But he fails to note the next paragraph, in which is stated Congress's authority "for governing such part of them [militia] as may be employed in the service of the United States" — a clear reference to the unorganized militia and the distinction between it and the "select militia."

This section of the Constitution — nor any other, for that matter — in no way justifies the routine enforcement of civilian law by military troops, National Guard or otherwise, other than in very specific exceptions: to suppress insurrections and repel invasions.

The president did not get congressional authority to call out the militia until 1795. Presidents employed this power to enforce federal law during desegregation disputes in the 1950s and urban riots in the 1960s and, beginning in the 1980s, Congress expanded this power to include enforcement of drug laws as a matter of national security.

The government's expansion of this power isn't necessarily a good thing; it would certainly be hotly debated by the framers. The general principle that the military should not be involved in civilian law enforcement is rooted deep in the social and legal traditions of the English culture from which our nation first grew. Congress specified this principle in law in the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878.

The act was not part of some plot to circumvent the 14th Amendment. The law was passed in response to the rampant abuses by military troops occupying the South after the Civil War. Mr. Fike's belief that this law was part of some organized plot to circumvent the 14th Amendment is bizarre, if not paranoid.

Mr. Fike, there is an evil purpose in erasing the boundary between civilian authority and military force. It's called totalitarianism. — J.L.P.

CH-47, *NOT* CH-53

In the article "Black Suits, Badges & Bradleys" [Aug. '96 *SOF*] you misidentified a CH-47 Chinook medium-lift helicopter ... [in a Waco photo] as a "CH-53." Nice try, but you weren't even in the same branch of service with your guess: The CH-47, with two rotor heads, is Army; the CH-53, with one rotor head, is Marine. I understand the Chinook has been mislabeled in the past by uneducated news people who really don't care about facts, but for you of all magazines to make such a glaring error and not catch it is unforgivable. ...

Excuse the fanaticism in which I pursue this but when I was in the Army I had three identifiers and two MOSs, one of which was Chinook mechanic. ...

R.A. Mach
Shoreview, Minn.

As previously noted in FLAK, military-technical errors occasionally slip by the editors. We're human, and for that we apologize. But the important point is this: If Clinton is re-elected, the use of U.S. military assets in domestic law enforcement might become commonplace. Scary, huh?

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The first stick, 10 members of the IAAV, exit Ilyushin Il-76 over North Pole from 1,000 meters.

Wild Geezers

Airborne Vets Jump The North Pole

Text & Photos by Monte Marshall

The chill factor was 95 degrees below zero as 20 members of the International Association of Airborne Veterans parachuted onto the North Pole from a Russian Ilyushin Il-76. The static-line jump was from an altitude of 1,000 meters, with the Russian military PTL-72 chute. Sixty American, Russian, French, and German jumpers participated, and Dutch skydivers also made the jump using square rigs.

Our adventure was only the second, and as it turned out the last, Polar jump with round military-style chutes that the Para Rescue Service of Russia's Red Cross/Red Crescent had conducted. Subsequent and future jumps on the North Pole have been restricted to skydivers with squares, due to the unacceptable injury rate sustained by our group.

The polar ice cap is a bleak but beautiful place. It's filled with danger, particularly to a parachutist with little maneuverability. Irregular pressure ridges of solid ice, up to 20 feet high, criss-cross the entire region. Open water shows through cracks in the shifting ice. Bitter cold, high winds, and ground blizzards of blowing ice crystals are among the hazards for arctic adventurers.

Preparations for the jump started at Voloslova Airbase with training on Russian PTL-72 canopies, employing the standard timing device triggered by the short static line and stabilizing drogue chute, from Russian Mi-8 (Hip) choppers. The DZ there is mostly slush and mud in April, with several small ponds. Many in our two 10-man sticks got a good soaking.

Exiting the ramp of a helicopter is a treat for military parachutists and jumping the Mi-8 is no exception. Big, noisy, and utilitarian, the Mi-8's pulsating, clanking, and rattling is akin to riding inside a steam locomotive.

We exited like Russian paratroopers: step off, knees up in cannon-ball position, chin down, elbows tight, with right hand clasping the D-ring and left hand clamped on the right wrist to prevent wind blast pulling the right hand away.

Arriving at our staging base in Khatanga, Siberia, we could see our Ilyushin Il-76, a Russian counterpart of a C-141, on the tarmac as we bused in. This particular Ilyushin was a post-war gift from the Russian military to the Afghan Veterans Association, which leases out the transport to raise funds. For this mission we'd be piloted by Colonel Boris Oleinikov, retired test pilot of most all Russian multi-engined aircraft.

Our destination in Siberia, 13 degrees

north of the arctic circle, on the Khatangskiy Gulf of the Laptev Sea, was a port city with a short fishing season. Except during July and August, the fishing vessels of Khatanga are ice-bound year round. Other than caribou hunting during the winter, there is little evidence of economic activity, but there seemed to be a great deal of traffic, and the children appeared boisterous and happy.

We brought, and were to jump with, everything needed for survival in the polar environment. Every pocket was filled with chemical hand warmers, nutrition bars, knives, cameras, batteries, medical supplies, toiletries, space blankets and pyrotechnics. Some of our vets wore GI arctic-weather ammo gear, but most used several layers of polypropylene garments under insulated Gortex outer clothes. Those with leather jump boots suffered cold feet, but my GI Mickey Mouse boots did the job for me. Headgear ranged from motorcycle helmets to military Kevlar, to standard Russian padded paratrooper caps. All wore polypropylene balaclavas and goggles.

After dinner at 1900 on 20 April, scuttlebutt was that midnight departure was likely, and our excitement mounted. Our fitful sleep and weird dreams were broken by a voice in the hallway, "Load up." We scrambled out with our polar gear, grabbed our parachutes in the lobby, jogged across the icy road next to the runway, and boarded our big Ilyushin jet in stick order. It was 2300 hours, one hour to lift off for the North Pole.

Veteran New Zealand army Major Maxwell Johnson, M.D., had arrived in Moscow sans luggage, lost by his airline. By scrambling and scrounging he reassembled a hodgepodge of barely passable cold-weather clothing — but he might have fared better had he missed the plane. He was one of our more seriously injured jumpers. One of the more unique adventurers on this expedition, Dr. Johnson is a board-certified internist, multi-engined airline transport pilot, trans-oceanic navigator, and a fellow in the Royal Meteorological Society.

The sun rose brilliantly one hour into our flight from Khatanga, but the interior of our transport grew steadily colder. There is an apprehensive excitement that most paratroopers experience before every jump: Increased adrenaline sharpens your every sense. Many I spoke to later admitted that in anticipating this North Pole adventure, there was an element of sheer terror on that flight never before experienced during "routine" jumps.

Like Jumping On Another Planet

When winds in excess of 30 mph, minus 30 degree Fahrenheit temperature, sub-freezing patches of seawater, concrete-like ice ridges on the DZ, and poor visibility are factored into the equation, arctic jumping becomes a new and awesome ball game. It is like jumping on another planet.

Author shows the colors at North Pole after successful — read that injury-free — jump. Fourteen of 20 vets jumping sustained injuries.

At 0230 we climbed into our cold-weather gear and harnesses. With our helmets, face protection, goggles, gloves, and heavy footwear, we resembled a squadron of astronauts. There were some nervous wisecracks, a few traditional attempts at graveyard humor, but a grim, determined mood predominated among our two 10-man static-line sticks, each man deep in his own thoughts.

Author, right, with buds at Voloslova air base prior to north-pole practice jump.

The first drop over the Pole was at 0250 from 500 meters, of tents, food, and supplies for two weeks' emergency survival. The second pass was from 1,000 meters for the Russian advance party and skydivers, then my stick on the third pass.

At 0319 the klaxon sounded and the clamshells opened with a roar. The sun was dazzling from the left as our stick faced the rear of the fuselage in the piercing cold. By now the adrenaline was really pumping. I was number nine in my 10-man stick and had a great view of the front eight paras as we bunched up and exited.

With the Ilyushin's speed of 180 mph, a tight exit was essential to minimize spreading out on the DZ. As I shuffled out and exited with elbows in, head down, knees up and clamped together, my goggles froze instantly. I was about to pull at the count of 5,000 when the auto mechanism released. I had no twists but the right toggle was fouled and inoperative.

The cold was shattering and the first thing I did after my canopy deployed was to pull the useless goggles down around my neck. The view was fantastic, like no other sight on earth: a desolate white fairyland broken by streaks of shimmering ocean water and ridges of ice, stretching for hundreds of miles in every direction.

I finally spotted the two Mi-8 helicopters on the Pole through the surface spindrift, the faint horizontal wisp of smoke visible through the blowing ice crystals indicating a high ground wind. I ran with the wind in an attempt to land close to the Pole, but with the right toggle inoperative, steering was minimal. I could turn my canopy only to the left, so I turned into the wind and enjoyed the descent, visualizing the perfect backward PLF.

As I neared the surface I did a pull-up on my front risers, and as I could not turn my head enough to see exactly where I would land, I was elated when I hit a smooth ice surface and flipped head over heels. Three increasingly vigorous tugs on the canopy release brought my 30-mph slide to a halt only 30 feet before a pressure ridge. I was in one piece!

I had worn only glove liners on the

jump to maintain dexterity, and the biting wind-chill estimated at -95 degrees Fahrenheit was taking its toll on my hands and eyes. I quickly donned an extra pair of goggles and my heavy insulated ski gloves before rolling up the canopy and packing my gear.

Hearing a plaintive voice to my left, I turned and spotted a crumpled figure not more than 50 feet away. It was Dr. Johnson. He complained of hip and pelvic pain and could not stand or walk without severe agony. He had been dragged into, then up and across, a solid ice wall, before plummeting down the other side.

The Pole and the helicopters were about 2 kilometers straight into the sun, which stays 12 degrees above the horizon around the clock in April. As another uninjured jumper and I began the laborious trek towards the Pole, Dr. Johnson lagged far behind. Realizing he could not make it, we dropped our kit bags and hastened back.

Rounding Up Casualties

We fired a flare and within minutes the Mi-8 rescue chopper was landing. Sasha, one of our Russian jumpmasters, helped us lift Dr. Johnson into the rescue ship, and indicated he wanted the two of us to go with the Mi-8 and help load other injured.

Sprawled, face-down, in our rescue chopper was my Texas roommate — out cold, with his left hand in bandages. A witness later said he slammed into the ice face-down, the wind at his back, at about 40 mph! Unknown to others until it was too late, he lost his left glove on impact, so suffered severe frostbite in addition to a concussion. He retained no memory of the jump nor the next 10 days of hospitalization in Khatanga, Moscow, and Helsinki.

Our Mi-8 landed on the other side of the Pole moments later to pick up some of the more seriously injured jumpers in stick two. We lifted another of my Khatanga roommates, who was motionless, onto the chopper. He had a broken wrist, minor frostbite, and was in shock. A much-decorated WW II veteran roommate, who had fused vertebrae, had also been seriously injured with contusions in the arm and shoulder, frostbite, and shock. In addition, he suffered broken cervical vertebrae when the Russian medical personnel, thinking his neck had been injured on landing, forcibly straightened the fused bones — to a chorus of protests from our paras — but not understanding a word they shouted.

Thirteen degrees above arctic circle, Khatanga is a fishing port – ice-bound 10 months of the year.

In all, 14 of our 20 vets suffered injuries of varying degrees. One gritty veteran SF major, sustaining three broken ribs and some crushed vertebrae, spent a short time in the ill-equipped Khatanga hospital bedded down on a hallway cot, before slipping out in the middle of the night after hearing screams resounding from elsewhere in the building. Originally from Germany, the Major explained he had spent enough time in Russian prisons and was not going to allow anyone in this hospital to touch him. Another one of our injured vets also "escaped" from the hospital a day later.

Jumpers land at Khatanga, demarcation point for jump, in Il-76. Note cavernous interior (inset).

Dr. Johnson, whose medical advice concerning our injured was mostly ignored on the Pole, and on the flights back to Siberia, would also have none of the medical facilities available there. Even though he had fractured his pelvis in two places, fractured the tip of a femur, and lost *four pints* of blood internally, Dr. Johnson toughed it out until he returned to the U.S.

Another of our jumpers was dragged over *three* ice ridges and knocked unconscious. He chose not to go back on the medical evacuation Mi-8 from an ice station south of the Pole, but instead bunked down with the second chopper's crew and anesthetized his injuries with the vodka they furnished.

While the majority of our vets, primarily the injured, sought shelter in an Mi-8 during the hours at the North Pole, a few of us used this opportunity on the ice cap to explore, set up tents, cut ice blocks, and take pictures. As we would most likely never set foot on the North Pole again, we wanted to make the most of it. Booze and champagne were produced, a North Pole sign planted, and Santa Claus made an appearance, courtesy of the European skydivers.

There were nearly 80 parachutists, medical personnel and others on the Pole, exclusive of helicopter crews. Having room for only 50 on the two Mi-8 choppers going back, 30 volunteers in good condition were solicited to stay behind until more fuel could be flown in. One aircraft carried all the injured.

After a refueling stop, a 30-minute flight through a white-out brought us to another landing. In the distance, through the gloom, we spotted two small, dark objects and some human figures. We were told to enter a small structure resembling an oval tent. Inside were packed 15 or 20 of our veterans group, Russian pilots, and crew. The word went out, "All injured, females, and older persons load up." Our senior jumper, a 78-year-old WW II Marine vet, quickly raised his hand, "I'm old!" That response broke up the crowd and all but seven of the veteran paras were soon headed home.

Our insulated tent, our "ice station" abode for the next 27 hours, seemed like the Waldorf Astoria as Sasha served us steaming cups of tea. Simmering in a large skillet was a goulash of caribou, onions, and mushrooms. With bread and plum preserves, this meal was a real morale booster.

Sasha insisted we sleep, and it took no coaxing to bunk down on one of the

Continued on page 68

Star-Wars Fratricide

Secret Weapon Suspected in Crash of Clinton's Chopper

by James L. Pate

The crash of an Air Force C-130 Hercules aircraft on 17 August, killing eight crew members and a Secret Service agent on board, was a tragic end to the First Family's vacation in Wyoming's Grand Teton Mountains.

The cause of the crash in the remote Gros Ventre Wilderness Area was not immediately known. A security communications van and other sensitive White House cargo were destroyed. President Bill Clinton expressed perfunctory condolences for the bereaved families after jetting back to Washington, and then took off for a Big Apple birthday bash.

James L. Pate

Frank Owens, an accomplished archaeologist and meticulous investigator, visits the scene of the helicopter crash that he and an assistant discovered moments after the presidential aircraft went down near a Civil War excavation site. Owens made and placed these crosses to memorialize the event, and to honor the service and sacrifice of the four dead Marines.

Part of the advance aviation entourage used to transport the vehicles and other specialized equipment necessary for a traveling president, the C-130's crash became an immediate media focal point.

The Washington Post reported on several crashes involving C-130s over the past few years, and noted that the crash of the presidential equipment transport "is also the latest among several recent crashes involving military planes." The story included a sidebar highlighting recent military aviation accidents, a list dating back to 1989.

One crash was notably absent from the *Post*'s list, particularly odd because the newspaper had reported it at the time. More recent than two of the eight incidents listed, it had twice as many fatalities — four — than one of the crashes mentioned, that of a Learjet in a California National Guard war game.

The C-130 accident is the second time since Clinton took office that a White House aircraft has crashed. The first occurred 19 May 1993. That tragedy, which killed four Marines, was all the more noteworthy because it did not involve a *support* aircraft, but a helicopter used to fly the President.

Most Americans assume a thorough, fair and impartial investigation is made to determine the cause of any military aviation accident, whether it's the C-130 in Wyoming or former Commerce Secretary Ron Brown's Air Force transport in Croatia.

Frank Owens thought the Marine Corps would certainly do a thorough job to find out who or what was responsible for the crash of a helicopter from Marine Corps Squadron One, or HMX-1, the prestigious presidential fleet of olive-green, white-topped choppers. Owens, an archaeologist known to Maryland historians for his meticulous research and precise field work over the past 18 years, had more than a casual interest in the crash of the presidential VH-60N Black Hawk in May 1993: Because he found the wreckage and the bodies.

James L. Pate

His mummy watching over him, Frank Owens stands in his office, explaining why he thinks the Pentagon lied about the crash of a presidential helicopter in May 1993. Owens is a modern Sherlock Holmes. He located an engraved watch and an engraved pistol that had been hidden by John Wilkes Booth after Lincoln's assassination. Owens also played the key role earlier this year in solving the murder of a Maryland woman who was missing in Hawaii for several weeks. He is also a major irritant to the federal government.

As months went by, Owens thought it

U.S. Marine Corps

Lt. Col. Melvin W. DeMars, left, then executive officer for HMX-1, and an unidentified man examine wreckage of the presidential Black Hawk that crashed in the Maryland woods across the Potomac River from Quantico, Va. DeMars had been the scheduled pilot for the ill-fated flight, but scratched at the last minute and was replaced by Maj. William S. Barkley.

odd that no one questioned him, even though he was the first person on the scene, less than a minute after the crash, in a heavily wooded area across the Potomac River from the helicopter's home base at Quantico, Virginia.

When he checked with others who also saw the helicopter fly an erratic path just prior to the crash, Owens learned they had not been questioned either. When he read the two official investigative reports, he noted enough errors — statements that did not square factually with what he'd seen — that he decided to investigate himself.

"There were things that I saw that day, and learned through my subsequent interviews with other witnesses and through research, that just didn't coincide with" the government's two crash investigation reports, Owens said.

But General Carl E. Mundy Jr., then commandant of the Marine Corps, insisted in a letter to the helicopter pilot's family almost a year after the crash, when questions arose about the validity of the government's findings, that "both of these investigations were carefully reviewed again, and no irregularities were discovered in their conduct ... or recommendations."

The information and exhibits Frank Owens collected, including thousands of pieces of the aircraft and its contents excavated at the crash site — many of them sharp, jagged pieces the Marine Corps failed to remove from the private property — suggest a deliberate attempt to ignore facts and reach a quick, benign conclusion that would conceal the real cause of the crash.

The G-Man Cometh

Owens' findings also drew unwanted attention to a secret Star Wars test facility run by a Pentagon/Central Intelligence Agency contractor involved in directed energy weapons (DEWs) research. It is located four miles from the crash site. He argues that physical evidence indicates the Black Hawk helicopter crashed because of *exposure to focused microwave energy.*

Owens' controversial conclusions brought G-men to his door. (One was none other than *the* G-man himself, G. Gordon Liddy, who also took Owens' findings seriously.) Before it was over, Owens would get a call from Clinton aide Bruce Lindsey. Another person, a longtime Owens friend who is a security specialist at the White House, visited Owens, looked at his material and told him he'd "uncovered a black project" and should "back off."

Owens built a sand-table scale model of the crash site and photographed it. A government investigator — investigating Owens, *not* the crash — saw a photocopy of one such photograph and decided Owens had obtained tightly guarded satellite imagery. Owens was accused of illegally possessing classified information. Naval Investigative Service (NIS) agents checked him out as a spy for a foreign government. He got anonymous phone threats against him and his family if he pursued the crash. The calls *were recorded.*

Finally, in what probably was an attempt by the government to portray Owens as a wild-eyed conspiracy nut, military helicopters began buzzing his home in White Plains, Maryland, shaking the windows, scaring his family and annoying neighbors. The Marines deny it. He has it on video.

Wednesday, 19 May 1993, was supposed to be a day off for Marine Major William S. Barkley, 39, one of only eight helicopter pilots authorized to fly the president. According to his most recent fitness report, Barkley, executive maintenance officer for HMX-1, had "the highest flight hour total and most presidential flights and deployments in the 45-year history" of the unit.

Major Barkley went to an awards ceremony that morning for his oldest son, Wes, then 14. He watched with pride as Wes was bestowed with a high-school letter for baseball. As often happened, though, Barkley received an electronic page from the squadron: Another pilot had forgotten his flight suit. They needed Barkley to fly.

As he was about to leave, Barkley slapped Wes on the back, gave him one of those firm, Marine Corps handshakes and told his boy, poised on the brim of manhood, how proud he made his dad.

"I'll see you tonight," Barkley told his son.

U.S. Marine Corps

The Pentagon learned the hard way that the VH-60N Black Hawk's complex microcircuitry is vulnerable to routine electronic interference from radio antennas and microwave towers. One nose-dived to the ground in Alabama after flying too close to a citizen's band radio transmitter. Private investigators believe the presidential helicopter was accidentally exposed to a high-energy microwave beam from a nearby, top-secret Star-Wars weapons research facility.

Across the Potomac in Maryland, Frank Owens was looking for clues to something that happened over a century ago, unaware that he was about to be thrust into a contemporary historical mystery. He and one of his 38 volunteers were excavating a Civil War-era Union Army campsite in Nanjemoy, only four miles by air from Quantico. A steady drizzle was falling. At about 1300, Owens called it a day.

As they drove the back roads on the east side of the Potomac, Owens and his passenger noticed a VH-60N Black Hawk helicopter with a white top cross their route twice, flying in opposite directions. Moments later, as they drove slowly along the narrow, tree-canopied Jacksontown Road, Owens stopped. Just up a logging road lay the smashed helicopter.

After telling another motorist to summon help, Owens and his assistant jogged 75 yards to the crash site. There was no fire. The aircraft nose had broken off. Owens found Maj. Barkley on the ground underneath, dead. A devout Christian, he said a prayer, kneeling next to the corpse.

The Army veteran immediately noticed something odd. *None* of the four crew members was wearing flight helmets or gloves. And despite massive head injuries to all four, and multiple compound fractures, there was almost no blood. (Armed Forces Institute of Pathology autopsies state the men died from "massive, whole body blunt injuries" caused by the impact.)

"I think they were dead before they hit the ground," Owens told *Soldier Of Fortune.*

With an archaeologist's eye for detail, Owens noticed that spilled fuel had pooled by the broken tail section, away from the crew. (The Pentagon would later explain autopsy photos of apparent skin burns by describing them as chemical irritations caused by spilled fuel.) Despite the lack of a fire, though, the men apparently had been exposed to tremendous heat.

Two of the victims' backs were split along their spines, autopsy reports confirm. Joint ruptures at the elbows, knees and ankles, similar to a chicken leg left too long on the grill, were also noted. But there was no charring of tissue. They seemed to have been heated from the inside out.

The Nanjemoy fire and rescue service was the first agency to get to the scene, followed by Charles County sheriff's deputies and the state police. A Marine Corps helicopter pinpointed the spot and then another chopper flew in a security detail from Quantico. They took the names and phone numbers of Owens and others, excused everyone and roped off the site.

From the very beginning, the behavior of Marines involved in the crash follow-up seemed mysterious. Although the Marine Corps would later contend Barkley and crew were conducting a "routine maintenance flight," an NIS report noted that "due to the presence of classified communication gear and crypto devices, access ... was tightly controlled."

Based on other government documents he obtained, which were reviewed by *Soldier Of Fortune*, Owens believes the helicopter was headed to its White House stand-by location in Anacostia, the far southeastern section of the District of Columbia, to relieve the stand-by helicopter that had a problem with a control pedal. Otherwise, the crashed aircraft would not have had the president's top-secret communications device, a cryptograph, on board. Owens claims the cryptograph had been activated.

"They said they used all security precautions," Owens noted, "but they used

Armed Forces Institute of Pathology

Official autopsy photo shows burns on one crew member who died in the crash of presidential helicopter. All four crewmen had similar burns, mostly in places touching the aircraft. The Marine Corps said the burns are skin irritation caused by contact with spilled fuel. But the man who found the bodies said they didn't have fuel on them and, besides, fuel won't blister a dead man. The burns are consistent with exposure to microwave radiation.

White House

Former President George Bush steps onto the White House lawn from a helicopter piloted by Marine Major William S. Barkley, visible in cockpit window. Barkley had "the highest flight hour total and most presidential flights and deployments in the 45-year history" of HMX-1, the prestigious Marine Corps helicopter squadron responsible for all rotary-wing presidential travel. Barkley's family is convinced the government lied about the cause of the crash that killed Barkley and three others.

local people to help transport the critical classified material out of there. They used locals' pick-up trucks to haul the stuff out. I talked to the people who helped do it. One woman said she saw them put stuff in boxes."

The Marines also confiscated three rolls of 35mm film and a VHS video from the sheriff's department, evidence that was shredded. A month after the crash, the Quantico Marine command called the Nanjemoy rescue unit, ostensibly to offer them disaster-response training. The Leathernecks landed a CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter at a ball field across from the fire station. The briefing shocked many of the civilian rescue personnel.

"Their spokesman, a sergeant, said that if there's any military aircraft in the future going down, and we're the first responders, we were not to give any first aid or CPR," recalled Billy Massey, a member of the fire and rescue unit who attended. "One of our medic units asked, if we don't know whether they're alive or dead, do we initiate first aid or at least check for vital signs?

"They said, 'Just leave them alone. If they look dead, assume they're dead.' We're not trained to do that," Massey said. "I don't care if it is top-secret government stuff or just a construction accident. We're trained to go in there and save lives, and the first thing you do is check for vital signs."

The session was videotaped, Massey said. When the Marines learned this, they confiscated the tape. Marine commanders at Quantico later denied the statements attributed to the sergeant by Massey. They even denied to Owens that such a briefing occurred. But the landing of the CH-46 at the ball field was big enough news in the rural community to make the local paper.

As Owens continued for the next three years to compile information about the incident, other discrepancies were noted. The official crash reports said the helicopter skidded only a foot after hitting the ground. But Owens measured skid marks 11 feet long. Barkley's autopsy report incorrectly indicates his left femur was broken. Owens saw the compound fracture, but it was in Barkley's *right* thigh.

Based on various ground radars, the crash reports include tables and graphs indicating the helicopter's airspeed, direction and position at given times over specific coordinates. But they fail to coincide with reports from witnesses (who were never interviewed by government investigators) who reported the aircraft at a much lower altitude, much lower speed and different flight path.

The Marine Corps reported that three of the four rotor blades detached after the helicopter dipped into the trees. But the rotor attached to the aircraft was the only one showing impact marks. The three loose blades were located almost 50 yards away, without any impact marks, suggesting they came loose in the air, not from impact with trees.

Lending credence to this theory is the detachment of one of two input modules, a drive-shaft assembly located between the engine and main transmission. Owens found it resting 124 feet from the wrecked aircraft, leaning against a tree. Yet the 140-pound, three-foot high drive assembly — a key engine component — does not show up on the official crash scene diagram. Owens thinks it was omitted because it would suggest a crash scenario inconsistent with official conclusions.

Crash reports said the dead crewmen were cut out of their seats. Owens said Barkley was on the ground, and that his seat was destroyed. Another mystery: The Marine Corps said Barkley was the pilot. But Owens said he had been in the *co*-pilot's seat. The man Owens found in

Frank Owens

When Naval Investigative Service agents saw a photocopy of this photograph, they began investigating civilian Frank Owens for illegally possessing classified satellite imagery. The NIS agents thought Owens had obtained a spy satellite photo of the helicopter crash scene: The agents accused Owens of being a spy. They later learned it was a picture of a very detailed sand table model he made of the crash site.

the command seat was the co-pilot, Capt. Scott J. Reynolds, 33, of Wasau, Wisconsin, a Persian Gulf War veteran and a pilot since 1987.

Another crewman *not* in his seat was Staff Sergeant Brian D. Haney, 32, of North Ridgeville, Ohio. He flew that day as a quality-assurance specialist, the Marine Corps said. Haney had flown with President George Bush to Europe, across the country in the last presidential campaign and with the Bush family on weekend getaways to Camp David.

One witness who saw the helicopter fly over in the last few minutes before the crash described seeing someone standing in the open crew door, like he was about to jump. Another witness "saw a subject hanging out of the aircraft yelling before it went down," a local 911 log noted. Another witness, a woman, said the helicopter barely cleared electrical power lines at a location where the crash report puts its altitude as about 1,600 feet.

The person standing in the crew door likely was Haney. Both his legs had severe compound fractures, consistent with injuries sustained by someone who was standing up when the helicopter crashed.

The fourth crash victim was Marine Sergeant Timothy D. Sabel, 27, of Ripon, Wisconsin. A Marine since 1984, Sabel was among 38 people on a transport helicopter that crashed in South Korea in 1989. Only 16 survived. Sabel spent a month in the hospital and a year of convalescence before he was fit for duty. He then became a crew chief on a CH-53D. He had been assigned as a crew chief to HMX-1 only three months before his death. Sabel was the only person aboard who was a regular crew member on that particular aircraft.

Fall Guys

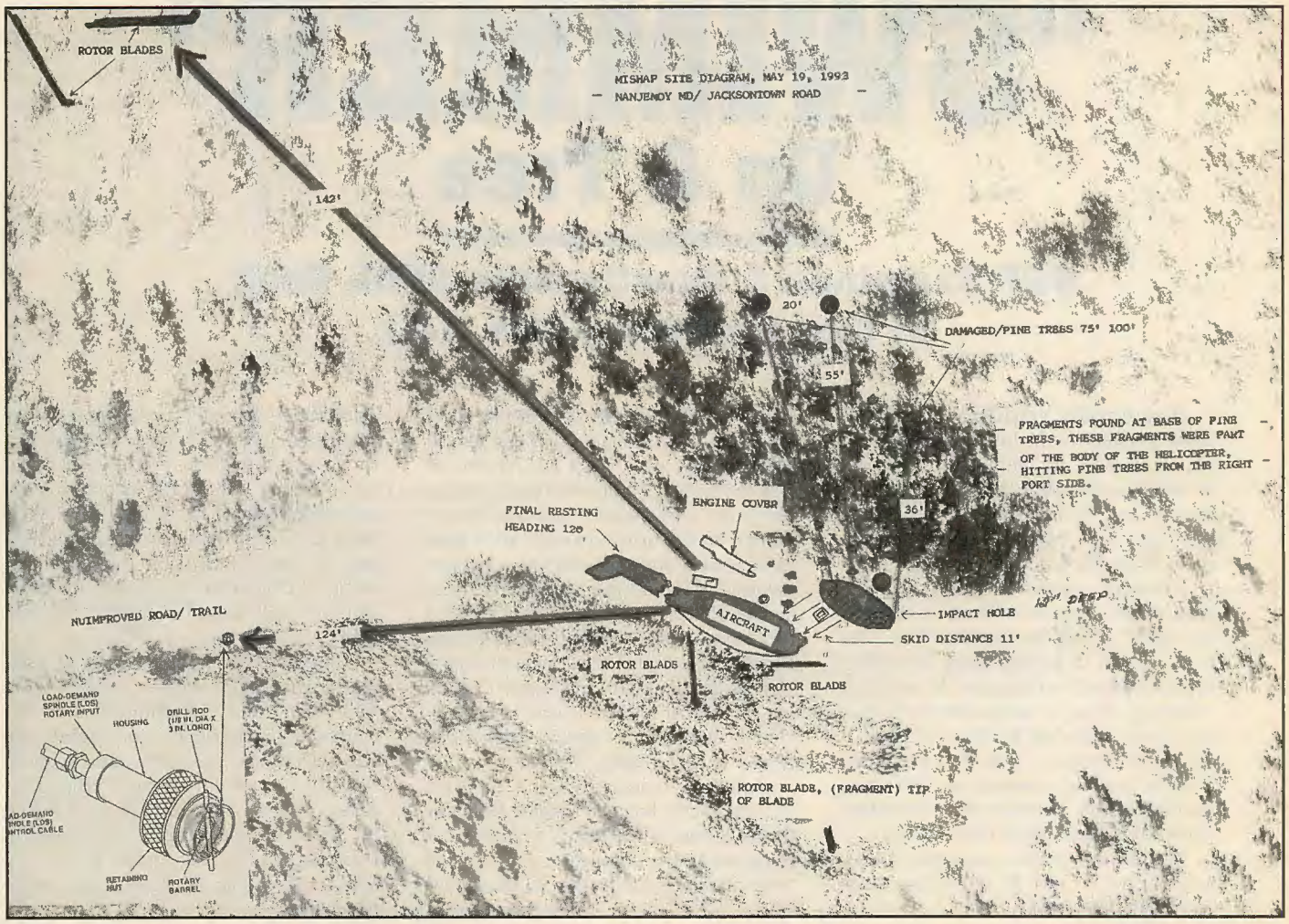
The official cause of the crash, according to the Marines, was the improper installation of a load demand spindle (LDS) cable collar, a small roll pin.

"It's like linkage in a car," Owens explained. "If you put it in the right way, the helicopter flies. If you put it in the wrong way, it doesn't fly. There's one of these on each side of the engine. Two experts that I talked to at Sikorsky [the company that designed and builds Black Hawks] said if it had been an improper installation, it would have happened instantaneously and the helicopter would not take off."

According to Marine maintenance records, the allegedly faulty installation of the LDS cable pins occurred about a month before the crash. In the interim, President Clinton had flown in the helicopter from Washington, D.C., to the aircraft carrier *Roosevelt* near Norfolk, Va., and back again. The same Black Hawk helicopter had been flown earlier the day of the crash.

The official Marine Corps explanation on the cause of the crash is further complicated by the denial of the two men involved in removing, replacing and inspecting the LDS cable roll pins in April.

In a handwritten statement, Sgt. Van McCleaf said he even consulted the manual before changing the roll pins,



Frank Owens

Diagram of crash site prepared by Owens shows location of many aircraft components not mentioned in official report.

and personally consulted a senior non-commissioned officer, Sgt. Jaime Lara, to make sure the procedure was done correctly. McCleaf, who was soon discharged and now lives in Pennsylvania, said Lara helped him do a pull-friction test on the cables and pins.

Staff Sergeant William Heern conducted yet another inspection of the LDS cables and roll pins, and he did an additional torque test. He also personally questioned McCleaf and, in a handwritten statement, said the proper steps were followed and double-checked.

Owens believes the aircraft suffered catastrophic mechanical failure in the air after exposure to microwaves from an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) simulator at the Harry Diamond Laboratory at Blossom Point, Maryland, about four miles from the crash site. EMP is the radio-wave emanation from a nuclear detonation, and it typically knocks out sensitive electronics.

The secret Star Wars weapons development program was moved to Blossom Point from Woodbridge, Va., in 1988. A lawsuit forced the Virginia lab to shut down because of local electronic interference and the fear that a stronger version of the test weapon being considered would endanger the health of people and animals, as well as the navigation of commercial aircraft approaching National Airport.

The type of presidential helicopter that crashed in May 1993, the Black Hawk, has navigational and avionics systems that are very vulnerable to EMP and microwave radiation interference. The aircraft frame acts as an antenna to focus the heat energy. From 1980, when the Black Hawk went into service, to 1987, 48 crewmen were killed in 29 Black Hawk crashes.

Vulnerable Electronics

Five of those crashes occurred when the aircraft inexplicably nose-dived into the ground. Electronic interference with highly sensitive navigational and avionic systems is believed to be the cause. In all five of those nose dive crashes, the aircraft were flying at less than 1,000 feet — just as in the crash of May 1993 — when they suddenly spun out of control and dove to the ground.

Owens and an engineering colleague conducted tests on pieces of wood paneling from the helicopter's executive cabin that were recovered from the crash site. Noting that some pieces of the paneling were charred only *inside*, Owens and the engineer placed some uncharred pieces in a microwave oven and turned it on. Those test pieces achieved an appearance similar to the charred pieces from the crash.

A piece of the helicopter's aluminum frame was similarly tested. The honeycombed frame consists of an exterior surface of fiber-filled synthetic resin encasing an aluminum core. The resin becomes flexible at 200-300 degrees F. Aluminum melts at about 1,000 degrees F. Synthetic resins are "transparent" to microwave radiation (i.e. they do not absorb microwave energy and convert it to heat; aluminum does). Pieces of the aircraft frame were recovered from the crash site on which the synthetic was firm and undamaged — yet the aluminum substrate had melted.

One assessment prepared for Harry Diamond Labs warns that EMP tests offshore have killed large numbers of fish, and that animals exposed to EMP exhibit such abnormal behavioral effects as "permanent or temporary navigational ... disorientation, fright

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"SWIMMER" Up A Tree

SOF Examines A Questionable SEAL Book

by Capt. Larry Bailey (USN, Ret.)

It normally requires a Herculean effort for me to sit down and write an article suitable for publication, but after reading the 1996 book, *Swimmers Among the Trees*, sent to me by an *SOF* editor, I literally dashed downstairs to my computer.

Swimmers purports to be "the most detailed account ever written on [SEAL] operations during the Vietnam War," but it is, at best, a regurgitation of public-domain operational reports. At worst, it is fantasy. What is most disheartening is that it was published by Presidio Press, a reputable company that has produced some of the best accounts of SEAL operations in the Vietnam War, including Orr Kelly's *Brave Men, Dark Waters*.

The book's jacket identifies *Swimmers*' author Joel M. Hutchins as a "highly decorated SEAL veteran" of five years' service — which he most definitely is not. This *mea culpa* aside, it is interesting how much "wiggle room" Hutchins left himself, *never actually* claiming to be a SEAL, never claiming to know specific operators, and never claiming participation in specific operations. But Hutchins did serve in the military and, like all of us who wore the uniform, he left a paper trail.

Photo from controversial book, *Swimmers Among the Trees*: "Members of a SEAL team are put ashore utilizing a Navy Landing Craft (LCM), to begin a mission in the Rung Sat special zone in South Vietnam."

Through personal sources, I obtained copies of some of Hutchins' military records, including his DD214. Presidio could have avoided all of this embarrassment if it had asked for these from Hutchins — *before* buying his manuscript — and had someone read it who knew what to look for. (Military-book editors everywhere: Are you paying attention?)

The records show — as I initially suspected — that Hutchins was a Navy hospital corpsman assigned to Vietnam in the vicinity of a SEAL detachment, in this case, Det Echo in Da Nang. By all accounts, Hutchins was a good sailor; he was in the Navy from February 1966 to November 1969. He did his job well enough for a promotion to pay grade E-5 and earned an honorable discharge. Had he ever been involved in combat operations in Vietnam, though, Hutchins would have been awarded the Navy/Marine Corps Combat Action Ribbon. The records show no such award. Neither do they show any "special" training other than a short counterinsurgency course at the U.S. Naval Amphibious School in Little Creek, Va.

Swimmers possesses some elements of authenticity, but only because Hutchins learned some of the SEAL lingo and because he clearly listened to some of the "war stories" told by the SEALs in Da Nang (and, maybe, elsewhere). The book's pedestrian prose frequently reads as if it had been lifted from either a military orientation text or field manual.

To its credit, Presidio Press has publicly recognized its gaffe and will not reprint the $21.95 hardback. But, *Swimmers* already is in circulation, and it contains many errors.

In Vietnam there were four principal SEAL organizations: detachments Golf, Alfa, Bravo, and Echo.

Det Golf was the SEAL Team 1 organization operating out of Nha Be, a village in the Rung Sat Special Zone (RSSZ): a tidal area south of Saigon that sat athwart Saigon's principal shipping channel. Det Alfa was Golf's sister unit from SEAL Team 2; it was based in Binh Thuy, near Can Tho on the Bassac River. (Parent units Team 1 and Team 2 were based in Coronado, Calif., and Little Creek, Va., respectively.) Both of these detachments operated under the aegis of Commander Naval Forces Vietnam. Det Bravo was a widely dispersed operation that basically ran the Provisional Reconnaissance Units (PRUs) throughout Vietnam. Det Echo, based in Da Nang, was part of the Studies and Observations Group (SOG) working directly under the Military Advisory Command Vietnam (MACV). This much is fact.

Based on his plodding style of writing, I suspect Hutchins worked from "spot reports": contemporaneous accounts of each SEAL combat op. He clearly had access to authentic sources, because he generally uses correct terminology and provides accurate background on guerrilla/counterguerrilla warfare. Even so, he does make errors that a "real SEAL" from the Vietnam days would never make.

Hutchins writes on page 2 that SEAL platoons comprised "two or three officers and twelve enlisted men." In reality, the East Coast SEAL platoons during the Vietnam era consisted of two officers and 10 enlisted, while the West Coast platoons had two officers and 12 enlisted. To the best of my knowledge, there was never a platoon from either coast that had a third officer.

And who knows how Hutchins arrived at a figure of "several thousand" Viet Cong operating in the RSSZ? He further claims (page 21) that, in the RSSZ, the Viet Cong could put "platoons ... even battalions into the field in response within minutes." I operated in the RSSZ, and I cannot conceive of more than a few hundred VC ever being active there.

More on the Rung Sat: Hutchins maintains that it consisted of "double-canopied jungle." Nonsense. The nearest double-canopied jungle, to my knowledge, was in the Central Highlands. The RSSZ flora mostly consisted of mangrove trees and other wetland vegetation — hardly double-canopy material.

And Hutchins (as "non-quals" are apt to do) makes much of the fauna of the area: Again on page 21, he describes how VC "would suddenly erupt, to rip out the throat of an adversary who had been momentarily distracted by the sudden appearance of a python, krait, or

Presidio's *Mea Culpa*

Forewarned of *SOF*'s review of its *Swimmers Among the Trees*, Presidio Press responded.

"On the jacket of [the book] author Joel Hutchins is described as a 'highly decorated SEAL veteran' and as having 'served in the U.S. Navy SEALs for five years.' These statements are not true. The author, however, is not responsible for these errors," Richard Kane, marketing director for the Novato, California-based publishing company, told *SOF*.

"[The errors] started with a copywriter's assumption and ended up in print without Mr. Hutchins having had the opportunity to correct the record. Mr. Hutchins did serve in Vietnam as a Navy corpsman. While parts of the book have proven controversial, especially chapter 11, 'Watching the Trail for SOG,' Presidio Press believes that *Swimmers* accurately reflects the military excellence and *esprit* of the SEALs," Kane said. "Although the book is virtually sold out (less than 1,000 copies remaining), Presidio Press does not plan to reprint this title. Instead, we feel it is best to let the book, and its controversy, fade away."

Presidio, which calls itself "America's foremost publisher of military history," has produced a number of well-received works of military non-fiction.

— *M.K.*

cobra." While I heard the occasional story of SEALs seeing snakes, tigers or crocodiles, those encounters were few and far between and never a major consideration.

In his attempt to emphasize the hazards of riverine interdiction, Hutchins describes (page 8) the "more fanatical VC crews, who, having determined that escape was futile, would wait until being boarded before blowing themselves, their vessel, and the intercepting craft out of the water." Never have I heard a SEAL or a Navy boat crewman mention VC suicide boats. In my experience, the VC valued their lives as much as we did our own. The idea of a VC "suicide boat" is outside the bounds of reason.

Early in his book Hutchins correctly names Operation Jackstay but suggests it was a lengthy campaign, comparing it to Operation Game Warden, which continued until the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Vietnam. However, Jackstay lasted only a few days, not the "weeks" (later, "months") claimed by the author. Furthermore, any credible treatment of Jackstay would have to relate the experience of SEAL Lieutenant Mike Troy, an Olympic-champion swimmer, whose recon patrol was forced to become part of the RSSZ mud to avoid several-score Main Force VC who passed literally within inches of them.

From his discussion of the early days of the SEALs' Vietnam experience, Hutchins harks back to SEAL basic training, which he refers to as BUD/S: Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training. True, BUD/S is the term in use today, but in "the old days" there was only the UDT training conducted at the amphibious bases of Little Creek and Coronado — a minor error, perhaps, but one readily made by someone not having personal knowledge of the teams the '60s.

On page 15, he mentions the necessity of lying "for hours, or even days, in a recon position" during the monsoon in Vietnam. I venture to say that no SEAL ever spent more than 24 hours on the same spot during the entire war.

Nor does he restrict his misinformation to SEAL matters: He includes the North Vietnamese Army as "indigenous forces." Did he never learn that "indigenous" refers to those people who originate in a particular locale? The NVA, being from North Vietnam, could scarcely be considered "indigenous" to South Vietnam. And later, on page 137, he buys into the liberal notion that the Vietnam conflict was a civil war. After the decimation of VC forces during 1968's Tet Offensive, even the most ardent antiwar activist was forced to concede that the war was between two nations: North and South Vietnam.

One of the more questionable assertions in *Swimmers* is the description of a SEAL patrol ambushing a sampan by placing three men on one bank and two men on the other side of the stream. In reality, the quickest way to get into serious trouble was to divide one's forces in any way; worse, to position the ambushers to face each other across the kill zone would have been an invitation to "friendly fire." (You graduates of Army Ranger School: Did you ever practice such armed folly in Florida phase? I don't think so.)

Then, on page 64, are three statements no knowledgeable SEAL or even a competent observer would make.

First, Hutchins writes, "The M16 was probably the most widely used [SEAL weapon] because it was highly reliable and lightweight. ..." Of course it was "widely used." The M16 was the U.S. weapon of issue in Vietnam, even though some SEALs did carry other weapons including AK-47s, shotguns, and Stoners. Then he misidentifies the M60 machine gun as "light" (wrong; it was/is "general purpose") and the .30-caliber Browning machine gun as "heavy."

Hutchins also confuses me with his use of the term "STAB." I have some degree of interest here, since I worked with Lt. Jack Macione and Chief Petty Officer Bob Gallagher at SEAL Team 2 in 1966 during the development of the original SEAL Team Assault Boat. Now comes Hutchins with terms like "Strike Assault Boat" and "SEAL Tactical Assault Boat." The book has a photograph

"A Strike Assault Boat (STAB) makes a high speed patrol near the Cambodian border." *Swimmers'* author confuses terms "SEAL Team Assault Boat," "Strike Assault Boat," and "SEAL Tactical Assault Boat."

Continued on page 71

KILLING Terrorists At Home ...
And Other SEAL Team 6 Specialties

by Gregory A. Walker

Photos: Author's Collection/PAO, NAVSPECWAR

With terrorism gaining new attention through brutal bombings and indiscriminate murders, the U.S. military's counterterrorist (CT) forces have seen their funding, training, and mission statements expanded. The Navy's SEa, Air and Land (SEAL) Team 6, better known in the Naval Special Warfare community as "Dev Group," today is perhaps the subject of more speculation than any other CT organization in the world.

According to a high-ranking member of former Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney's staff, SEAL Team 6 is one of two U.S. counterterrorist units authorized to conduct a *pre-emptive* strike against terrorists. Moreover, Team 6 operators were quietly deployed in Atlanta this summer in case a terrorist act at the Olympics defied resolution by local and FBI special-reaction units. (See accompanying article.)

Who are the SEALs of ST-6, and what makes them so special?

Contrary to popular conception, the origin of SEAL Team 6 is firmly rooted in the Holloway Commission's study completed in the late 1970s.

Under then Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Thomas Hayward's direction, the SEAL community accepted the challenge of creating an effective counterterrorist response mirroring — to a degree — the Army Special Forces unit Blue Light. Taking its lead from Commander Thomas Lawson, then commander of Naval Special Warfare Group (NAVSPECWARGRU) Two, based at Little Creek, Va., a single platoon of SEALs went to Britain in 1980 to study elite CT methods.

Commanded by Lieutenant Commander Norm Carley, the platoon spent nearly four months training under the British Special Boat Service (SBS), the maritime counterpart of the better-known Special Air Service (SAS).

Responsible for the protection of British oil platforms plus tankers and other seagoing vessels deemed high-priority targets for terrorists, the SBS was, and remains today, an effective and highly sophisticated special-operations command. In 1980 Carley's SEALs invested long hours with their SBS hosts learning the intricate tricks of seaborne counterterrorism. Influenced strongly by the SBS and SAS, the American sailors returned to Little Creek with effective, new input to enhance the Navy's fledgling CT program.

After a series of debriefings with Lawson and his staff, along with some impressive demonstrations of their newfound capabilities, Carley's SEAL platoon was designated as NAVSPECWARGRU 2's first *formal* CT unit.

Team 6 operators can make good use of swimmer delivery vehicles (SDVs) during infiltration against terrorist targets. Here, an SDV lifts away from its mother ship during training mission.

Designated the Terrorist Action Response Team (TART), Lt. Cmdr. Carley and his men immediately set about training another five SEAL platoons as counterterrorists. As soon as six such platoons were declared capable of carrying out a CT role, the entire program was retitled MOB 6. (MOB stood for Mobility, with the 6 referring to the number of trained CT platoons which could be deployed anywhere in the world.) MOB 6 reported to NAVSPECWARGRU 2, but its operational deployments were directly overseen by the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS).

Chargin' Charlie And Demo Dick

In the meantime, an Army colonel by the name of Charlie Beckwith was competing against Blue Light, which was

SEAL Team 6 counterterrorists frequently rehearse hostage-rescue assaults in specially designed "kill houses" using live ammunition. A favorite weapon for close-quarter battle is the 9mm H&K MP5 submachine gun; this SEAL "shooter" has double-magazine device for quick reloading.

headed by Col. Robert Mountel.

Manned with volunteers from the 5th Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, N.C., Blue Light had been formed in the belief that an Army CT unit was best constructed from existing talent and resources. The project was fully operational by the time Beckwith's plans for Detachment Delta came to the attention of the Joint Chiefs. The JCS, however, blessed "Delta Force" and Blue Light was disbanded. (Blue Light, under Mountel, was a self-generated CT project; it had no formal guidance from the chief of staff of the Army or the JCS. At those echelons, Beckwith won the political and public-affairs battles on behalf of Delta.)

It was Beckwith's formal report to the Joint Task Force (JTF) on terrorism that would give birth to SEAL Team 6. In it, Beckwith (known among Green Berets as "Chargin' Charlie") noted that a maritime-counterterrorist capability was needed to complement Delta's ground presence. Himself a graduate of British SAS training, Beckwith was fully aware of the capabilities and lines of responsibility shared by the SAS and SBS. Such a matrix was necessary in the U.S. military, he urged.

Beckwith's document referred to "a SEAL element" when discussing a shared armed-services CT commitment. This random mention caught the attention of Navy Cmdr. Richard Marcinko, then also involved in JTF planning. While revising Beckwith's report for final review, Marcinko changed the term "element" to "command."

An outspoken SEAL officer with Vietnam experience, "Demo Dick" Marcinko realized he was in a position to create an entire SEAL team assigned the counterterrorist mission — *if* his sleight-of-hand slipped by the JTF senior command. Aware of the Holloway Commission's recommendations, and with close ties to NAVSPECWARGRU 2 and its six CT platoons under Norm Carley, Marcinko was ready to carve out a war-fighting command for himself.

With heavy inside support from the deputy CNO, Admiral Bill Crowe, Marcinko was selected by CNO Hayward to command the newest SEAL team.

Crowe was an ardent believer in special operations. He became Marcinko's "sea daddy," with all that such an official protective cloak could provide. SEAL Team 6 received its funding site and became an operational command in late 1980.

Marcinko swiftly absorbed those SEALs from MOB 6 who met his unique criteria, to include Carley, who became his executive officer. Seventy-odd operators, or "shooters," as they would become known in CT parlance, eventually ended up on ST-6's roster.

Countless dry-fire "walk-throughs" are held during SEAL Team 6 training. Operators wear fire-resistant Nomex suits and gloves, lightweight body armor and web gear even during rehearsals. Operator at left is armed with 12-gauge shotgun, the ultimate weapon for door-busting entry. Team 6 prefers H&K's Benelli M1 Super 90 and Remington 870 shotguns.

Controversial Origins

Depending on which SEAL one asks, Marcinko either was a dangerously obsessed tyrant or an innovative leader heroically swimming against bureaucratic currents.

"The majority of the sailors Dick accepted for Six were the cast-offs from the other SEAL teams," said Lt. Cmdr. Michael Walsh (Ret.), a highly acclaimed Phoenix adviser during the Vietnam War. Walsh interviewed for Team 6 during its early manning efforts but immediately butted heads with the abrasive Marcinko, whom Walsh later called a "fruitcake."

"More than a few SEALs see Dick Marcinko as some kind of mythical UDT/SEAL god, but I'm not one of them," he noted.

"I disagree with Dick's philosophy on leadership and command," said Walsh, today the security director for a Colorado-based corporation. "But there was no other SEAL officer who could have stood SEAL Team 6 up, with the obstacles the Navy put in its way, other than Dick. He says a lot of the right things; it's just the way in which he says them that grate on people."

SEAL Team 6's special-boat unit, Gray team, comprises specially trained crews manning subsurface and surface craft such as this fast, radar-equipped, inflatable boat capable of carrying a 16-man platoon.

Former Team 6 operator Chris Carracci served under Marcinko. Today he contracts with his former commander's corporate-security firm, SOS Temps. He sees a different side to Six's first commanding officer.

"Dick made us prove ourselves first, and then encouraged us to go out and learn what we needed to," Carracci recalled. "He gave us great freedom. He has a very public face — the one most people he doesn't care about are shown — and then the private face only a select few are privileged to share."

In July 1983 the ultra-unconventional Marcinko was replaced at Six by Captain Robert Gormly, a highly respected SEAL officer who was charged with correcting the bad habits and reputation of Team 6. In 1984 Marcinko was tasked with creating another SEAL unit, "Red Cell." Its controversial, mock-terrorist penetrations would embarrass commanders of several Navy bases where security was lacking — and make more enemies for Marcinko.

The "rogue warrior" was forced to retire in 1989. But the Navy wasn't through with him. Following a long and expensive probe of Team 6 and alleged false claims and travel vouchers, Marcinko was convicted and sentenced in 1990 to 21 months of imprisonment. According to newly developed information, those charges *might* have been as wrongful as he claimed all along.

After October 1983's Operation Urgent Fury and Team 6's nearly disastrous attempt to seize the Grenadian governor general's mansion — an op that began with four SEAL parachutists drowning in rough seas — the Navy urged ST-6 to upgrade and refine its new warfighting (in addition to CT) role.

"The expense of maintaining this kind of an organization is immense and under constant review," one senior

SEAL counterterrorists, such as this operator with MP5 submachine gun, fire upwards of 2,500 rounds *each* in the course of a single week's training.

NAVSPECWAR officer told *SOF*. "Delta [Force] was faced with the same challenge, and events such as Grenada showed us such assets could be committed to war, but they had to train for such deployments as well as their primary missions."

Today, SEAL Team 6 is progressive, mature, and blessed with even greater assets than ever before.

Along with classified covert operations around the world, ST-6 played a role in Operation Desert Storm. Recently discussed Delta Force combat missions in El Salvador give credence to the belief that ST-6 operators conducted covert maritime operations throughout Central America during the closing years of the Cold War.

"The United States has adopted a preemptive-strike policy against known terrorists, much like that of Britain and Israel," one top former Bush adviser told *SOF*. "SEAL Team 6 carries that mandate and could be used against identified guerrilla leaders or commanders, such as those who fought with the *FMLN* during the civil wars in El Salvador and Nicaragua in the 1980s."

Organization of ST-6 remains a tightly held secret. But like its Army counterpart Delta, smaller teams within the Team have been formed to accomplish specific taskings. For example, teams Red, Blue, and Gold are designated as Six's assault units, whereas Gray team is the SpecOps boat unit that supports Team 6. In addition, these smaller teams have been formed and trained to deal with highly defined missions that might be singular in nature and effect.

Training is ongoing and intensive.

"We train for the big game every day," one long-time ST-6 operator said. "It's sometimes difficult keeping everyone enthusiastic at such a pitch because so many times we never actually get to do what we've trained for. But, for the most part, we know that's a very real part of what we do anyway. Sit, wait, and be ready to move — fast!"

Training in weapons and specialized tactics dominate the ST-6 operator's schedule.

Firing upwards of 2,500 rounds per week in highly sophisticated, graded scenarios creates a caliber of combat shooter who is perhaps the finest in the world.

Contrary to conventional military units, in which the pistol is merely a last-ditch sidearm, Team 6 sees it as an offensive weapon in CT ops. Because of the intensity of the team's training in close-quarter shooting, the standard U.S. military sidearm, the 9mm Beretta 92FS, was replaced long ago with the sturdier SIG-Sauer P226 pistol. The Navy later approved the purchase of Heckler & Koch's .45 ACP special-operations handgun systems for its operators. (See "Spe-

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Gold-Medal Guard Duty

Just as Army detachment Delta and Navy SEAL Team 6's counterterrorist missions were expanded to include war-fighting capabilities (successfully utilized in the Gulf War), these premier SpecOps units likewise have been assigned limited roles in support of domestic law-enforcement agencies (DLEAs). And for good reason.

Dedicated to apprehending *conventional* criminals, the vast majority of DLEAs are ill-suited to dealing with terrorism. Accordingly, a group of selected SEAL Team 6 operators was deployed this summer in Atlanta as a "final option" for any counterterrorist/hostage-rescue crisis during the Olympics.

The SEALs' role, a source told *SOF*, was to provide a direct response to "any terrorist act or threat which the FBI's HRT [Hostage Rescue Team] personnel did not feel they could handle."

At the same time, the immediate presence of a secondary response team, should multiple terrorist actions have occurred, was deemed critical. Given the scope of this international sporting event and the projected expertise of possible terrorist players, only the best could be relied upon.

Ever since the 1972 kidnapping and massacre of 11 Israeli athletes by Arab terrorists at Munich, Olympic officials have planned against this threat to the media-heavy, international events. (The Munich tragedy also inspired the creation of Germany's elite *GSG-9* counterterrorist unit.) In 1996, American authorities additionally took into account the Oklahoma City bombing, the devastating bombing of a U.S. barracks in Saudi Arabia, and the widely reported arrests of the Arizona "Viper" group. Fear of a terrorist attack in Atlanta evoked perhaps the greatest security op of this century.

Even so, a much-feared bombing — apparently by a single terrorist with a homemade pipe bomb — killed one and wounded more than 100 at a concert in an outlying park. No security force realistically can be expected to neutralize *every* possible threat. But Atlanta planners tried.

In place was a multi-layered force comprising uniformed and plain-clothes civilian, law-enforcement and military personnel.

"The primary counterterrorist-response force for the Olympics is the FBI's Hostage Rescue Team," a SEAL Team 6 "shooter" explained before his Olympics deployment. "After that you have your private sector security/response teams put together by a single, corporate parent which has contracted to the Olympic Committee to provide in-depth protection and coverage. These teams are made up of former police officers and special-operations personnel coming from the different services.

"We're the final option," the shooter continued. "Our people would only be called upon if a situation became so bad the private sector and HRT couldn't handle it any longer. In that case, we'd be brought in to get the job done."

SEAL counterterrorists would

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U.S. SpecOps units, including SEAL Team 6, are arming themselves with Heckler & Koch's "MK23 MOD O, USSOCOM Pistol." The .45 ACP semiautomatic, with full magazine of 12 rounds and sound suppressor, weighs 4.2 pounds. The Navy was to have received its first shipment of pistols and magazines on 1 May.

THE GUNS OF NOVEMBER

What To Expect — And Fear — From A Lame-Duck Clinton

by Larry Pratt

The prospect of Bill Clinton getting re-elected should alarm anyone concerned with maintaining our free society.

Clinton's record thus far speaks for itself. He has signed into law every piece of antigun legislation set before him, including the Brady Bill, the 1994 Crime Bill with its semiauto ban and the 1996 Terrorism Bill, and asked for more.

President Clinton would like to go much further. As he told *Rolling Stone*, he supports banning private ownership of handguns and only wishes he had votes in Congress to do it. A Democratic sweep this election could give him those votes.

Clinton's administration has blocked importation of constitutionally protected firearms, routinely hassled gun dealers doing business at gun shows and used the United Nations to promote a call for civilian disarmament.

Clinton understands the political peril of promoting civilian disarmament, but insists on pushing the envelope even before he is a lame-duck president. What will he do to the Bill of Rights after he is no longer concerned with the will of the people and their revenge at the next re-election time?

Recent attempts to tie guns, drugs and terrorism together means that, as the federalization — and militarization — of the police continues, we can expect Clinton to use these issues to rationalize gun confiscation. He has already praised the police for warrantless gun sweeps in inner-city neighborhoods. Will Clinton's next use of warrantless searches be to track down "militiamen," namely, *anybody* who owns a gun?

To appreciate what Clinton could do to persecute gun owners, just review the unconstitutional powers already given the President by Congress over the years: Shortly before World War II, while the Nazis promulgated their Gun Control Act, a new U.S. law required gun dealers to be licensed by the federal government.

Thirty years later, the other shoe fell — the records of gun sales through dealers became the property of the government, not the dealer, and had to be surrendered when the dealer quit business. Thus as dealers go out of business, and for certain other reasons (multiple purchases and firearms traces), the BATF gets a gun owner's name, address and description of his firearm(s). The BATF has at least 60 million of these, and by now half of them have been illegally computerized, even though the 1968 law specifically prohibited the treasury department from using that legislation to effect gun registration.

Add to this that virtually every semiautomatic rifle, mislabeled an assault weapon, was added to computer banks when the BATF carried out the illegal Operation Forward Search under President Bush, where agents went to firearms dealers and actually copied names, addresses and types of so-called "assault weapons" purchased by individual Americans. Obviously, they are not satisfied with having gun owners "registered" in dealer records.

Your Name, Address And Gun

What's worse, is that by compiling these records, the BATF now has a centralized data base to enforce a future ban on the possession of semiautomatic firearms. Registration lists have *already* been used as confiscation lists in local jurisdictions where complete bans have been passed.

For example, the *Daily News* reported in 1992 that, "Police raided the home of a Staten Island man who refused to comply with the city's tough ban on assault weapons, and seized an arsenal of ... firearms. ... Spot checks are planned [for other homes]."

How? In the mid-1960s officials in New York City began registering long guns. They promised they would never use such lists to take away firearms from honest citizens. But almost 30 years later, the city began banning (and confiscating) many of those very guns, working from the registration lists, with willing police.

The Brady Instant Check system represents another growing threat to our firearms freedoms. The instant background check has been used as a lure, allowing gun buyers to avoid the waiting period of the Federal Brady Law. As state after state goes for the bait and imposes their own Brady Instant Check on their citizens, the computerized registration web will eventually extend to virtually every purchase made in any American gun store.

The Justice Department admitted in 1989 that there is no way to prevent the government from making a registration list of gun owners during the performance of the Brady Instant Check. Their Task Force stated: "Any system that requires a criminal record check prior to purchase of a firearm creates the potential for the automated tracking of individuals who seek to purchase firearms." Can anyone doubt that a second Clinton administration would take this opportunity to compile a computerized list of all firearms transactions, adding it to the data base they already have? What George III never had, Bill Clinton would: a list of virtually *all* American firearms owners.

In the name of fighting terrorism, federal, state and local lawmakers may well move to increase prohibitions on firearms ownership during a second Clinton term. Already the provisions sacked from the first "Terror" Bill in 1996 are being sought in the wake of the Olympic bombing. Imagine what an increasingly federalized law-enforcement establishment might do after Clinton is re-elected, with four years to reign unfettered.

The media has been eager to accept anything from Clinton, or others with like agenda, as if their assertions are true. Increasingly, this campaign of calumny has set up gun owners to become the persecuted minority of our time. Anything bad happening in America is increasingly laid at the feet of gun owners. Even as a climate of hate is being developed by the establishment to justify persecuting gun owners, gun owners are being blamed for the hateful climate.

The next wave could well be a Clinton bill to ban presently owned semi-autos — including *all* pistols and rifles. Such legislation could well include a requirement to surrender all like firearms. In other words, no grandfathering of presently owned guns.

To implement the confiscation of these guns should be easy, thanks to the registration of gun owners made possible through the Brady Instant Check and the computerization of dealer records. The foundations for confiscation are already well laid.

In an orchestrated climate of fear, Clinton should be able to get Brady II enacted as part of a gun ban. Thus, any collection of 20 or more guns would be an "arsenal." But in such a frenzied climate, it is quite possible that Clinton would even include the guns that have "sporting use." The arsenal license for one's home collection might be a halfway measure that Clinton would leapfrog if the momentum were strong enough. This was the objective of the late Pete Shields, a founder of Handgun Control, Inc., according to what he told *New Yorker* magazine (July 1976): "Our ultimate goal — total control of handguns in the United States — is going to take time...[T]he final problem is to make the possession of all handguns and all handgun ammunition — except for the military, policemen, licensed security guards, licensed sporting clubs, and licensed gun collectors — totally illegal."

Consider again what has already happened to set the stage. When was the last time we demanded our elected officials be accountable to the Constitution? If our right to keep and bear arms "shall not be infringed," then why do we already tolerate dealer licensing, registration of purchases, waiting periods, Brady Instant Checks, gun bans, gun-show harassment, import restrictions and more?

We must focus on getting people elected to Congress who will be willing to hold the Constitution up as an indictment to the unconstitutional actions of their colleagues, as well as the president and the courts. We need members of Congress willing to force their colleagues to vote on issues that have been debated in constitutional terms. We need to keep people like Steve Stockman and Helen Chenoweth in office, and add to their number.

There were 27 Republican freshmen and 19 of their upper-classmen colleagues who stood against President Clinton and Speaker Gingrich and voted against the 1996 Government Terror Bill. All are worth supporting with our time and money: They have the guts to "just say no" to the establishment.

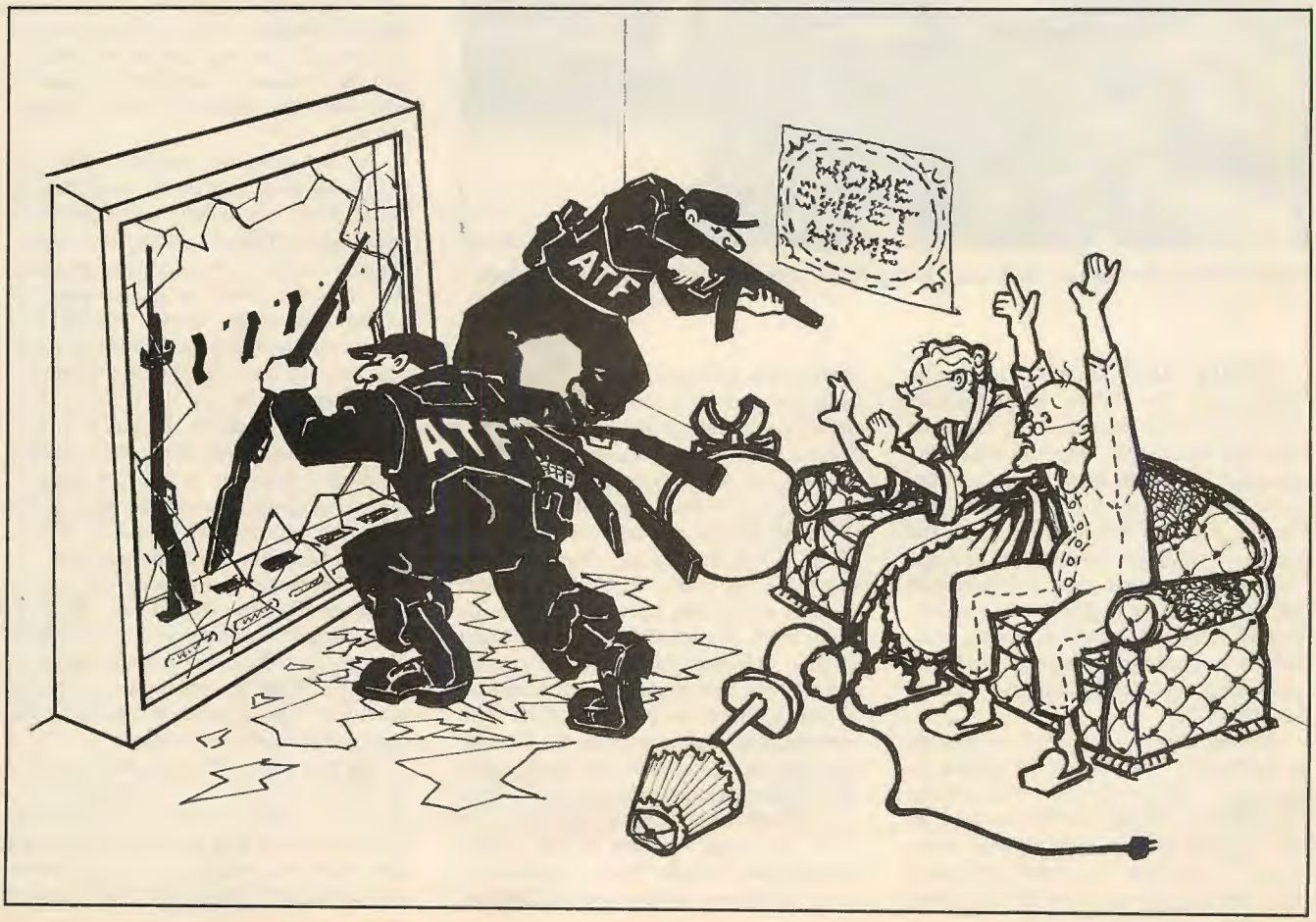
Re-electing them will not only ensure we continue to be blessed by their votes: It will say to the leadership that, here are representatives who cannot be pushed around. If many are defeated, we will hear the argument that standing up for the Constitution is politically dangerous, but if most are reelected, we can make the opposite argument — that defending the Constitution is good politics.

The importance of keeping, and adding to, the number of congressmen who truly support the Constitution cannot be overemphasized.

Don't be distracted by the presidential race. The future will be determined much more by who is elected to Congress. Without independently minded, pro-Constitution representatives and senators, Clinton would likely be able to stampede even a Republican Congress. And if Dole is elected, we will need to override the veto of the man who has said that he will veto a repeal of the semi-auto ban.

We need tough minded, pro-Constitutionalist people in Congress. Give your time and money to help bring that about. That is where the battle is. Don't let the media lure you on to the wrong battlefield. If we do not win in Congress, winning anywhere else will not bring victory.

Larry Pratt is Executive Director, Gun Owners of America. For membership info, call 1-800-417-1486. Their website address is http://www.gunowners.org



Sara Gilbert

BABY BOOMERS

RUF'S PG-13 War In Sierra Leone

Text & Photos by Roddy Scott

"Older" RUF guerrilla strikes pose in camp with Chinese Type 54 12.7 machine gun.

Dusty and drab, Gueckedou would never qualify for a tourist brochure. But this southeastern Guinean town has become the center of a thriving smuggler's trade because of its proximity to neighboring Sierra Leone and Liberia. The descent into civil war and anarchy by Guinea's neighbors has made Gueckedou a transit point for diamonds and gold being smuggled out of war-torn Sierra Leone and Liberia by rebels, freebooters and corrupt government officials alike who need an "alternative" transit infrastructure.

My taxi driver wanted $40 to take me to the border. The road to the border, he explained, was overloaded with military checkpoints and the soldiers would all want some money. "Their pay, monsieur,'' he sighed, "is a little irregular." The other additional factor was the state of the road, he explained with an apologetic shrug, as if embarrassed about the appalling conditions of his country's infrastructure. I caved in, wondering if I would ever learn to bargain. But if he could get me to the border without trouble it would almost certainly be worth the price. I was headed for Doma refugee camp, on the border with Sierra Leone. There I would link up with the guerrilla army of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), currently instigators of one of the nastiest low-intensity wars around.

As the driver had predicted, there were innumerable checkpoints as we bumped our way along the road, but to my relief the soldiers seemed content to take their few dollars without questioning my reasons for being so close to the border. Dotting the roadside were an endless series of refugee camps, some thatched roofs covered in blue tarpaulin with the letters "UN" in bold white, designating the camps to which tens of thousands of Sierra Leoneans have fled to escape the war raging just a few miles away on their side of the border. But we were unable to escape the dreaded question: "Do you have a permit to be in the area?" a soldier wanted to know. Bluffing, I said that we were only going to a village down the road and would be back in a couple of hours. For five dollars, the soldier accepted the explanation and we carried on, eventually reaching the mass of mud huts that made up Doma refugee camp.

According to my briefing by RUF officials 48 hours earlier in neighboring Ivory Coast, where they have offices and where leader Foday Sankoh now resides, Doma is where I would meet my contact. He, they said, would arrange my passage across the border. Initially the only people who approached were ragged children, intrigued by the rare sight of a white man. Eventually the children were joined by the adults of the camp, curious to know what I was doing there. About the time I began to fear I had come to the wrong camp, a young man approached with the words "Welcome to Moa," which identified him as my contact.

In his hut we discussed the border crossing. There would, he said, be problems. Guinean soldiers at the river would have to be bribed, and because there are too many local Guineans in the area we would have to approach the border in the early hours of the morning.

He was right about the problems. For an hour we ran through villages in the darkness, finding that even at this late hour there were still people moving along the pathways, forcing us to the bushes while we waited for them to pass. Even-

Kalashnikov Kindergarten: RUF commanders regard the Small Boys Brigade as a particularly effective fighting unit because they "can hide much better than the older people and are often better in the bush." Clockwise from upper left: young girl carries AKM apparently assembled from eclectic blend of various manufacturers' parts; pensive member of Small Boys Brigade waits at assembly area with AK-74; youth only missing a few parts from his rusty G3; lad carries AK with 40mm BG-15 grenade launcher; boy with embellished AK quietly waits for somebody to tell him what to do. Such child warriors are more often forcibly recruited than not. Motivation varies: For some, life has been so appalling they have nothing to lose from fighting the established order; others fight simply because their life has been overtaken by the war — they were kidnapped at an early age and quickly adjusted to life as a guerrilla; some fight in the belief they are right to do so, others simply because it's the best way for them to get on in the life fate, and Foday, have handed them.

tually, however, we reached the compound housing the border guards where, by torch light I counted out the local equivalent of $100 for the captain and gave him an old digital clock that no longer kept time, and after a cursory examination of my bags we were allowed to proceed. A soldier was ordered to guide us to the riverbank, and after a short walk we reached the river.

Reggae and Revolutionaries

It was dark and moonless as my boat left the Guinean shore. There was something surreal about being rowed across the river by a Guinean soldier, while across the border his colleagues were doing their incompetent best to help the Sierra Leonean government in its war against the RUF guerrillas. But the soldier, in his tattered uniform, seemed indifferent to the contradiction of ferrying a journalist into rebel-held territories and gratefully acknowledged the small amount of money I gave him. From the far side of the river a flashlight cut through the darkness, flashing three times. I replied twice with my own.

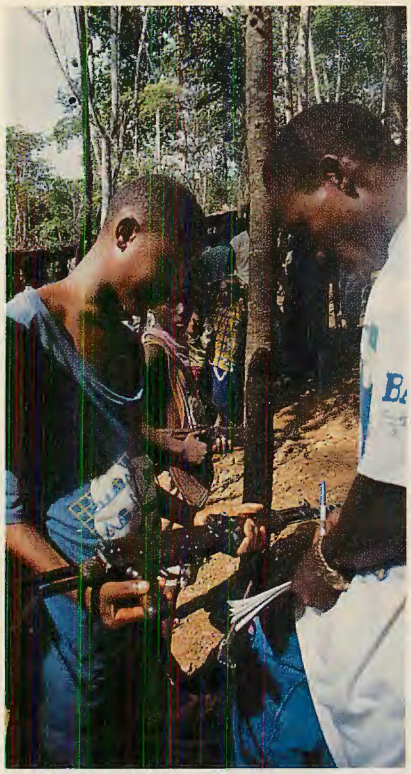
As my boat approached the shore, a guerrilla waded into the river and beached the boat. Clambering up the bank with my back pack I met two more teenage guerrillas — all were clad in the classic African guerrilla uniform of T-shirts, jeans and sneakers. Slung casually over their shoulders were the ubiquitous AKs. We all shook hands before one of them picked up my backpack and put it on his head, as we turned from the river and headed into the night jungle. For an hour or so the leading guerrilla set a fast pace, and we eventually came to an empty village.

Here the rest of the platoon was billeted, and on my arrival a sleepy commander was roused, and a plate of cold and unappetizing rice provided, onto which a reddish sauce was poured — "blood" said a guerrilla with a grin. In the background reggae music played and some of the guerrillas began dancing around in the confines of the small hut.

At dawn I walked around the village with the platoon commander, Lieutenant Stanley. As the sun came up, the bullet scars on the houses became evident, and over the bullet-ridden walls, crude graffiti was daubed. Misspelled slogans — "RUF is figting for di peple" — were accompanied by drawings of RPG-7s and AK-47s. After a few hours I left the village with Lt. Stanley, and set off for the regional sub-headquarters at Buede, a march of two or so hours.

Skulls, Ants, Mines And Anarchy

Home to a company of guerrillas, the regional HQ is situated in what once would have been a medium-sized provincial town, but the aerial bombardments have left their mark, and the guerrillas are billeted in the few houses that have not been leveled by cluster bombs. I asked whether the bombardments had been a particular problem for the guerrillas. "Not really," replied Lt. Morris, "the airplanes never know which houses we are in and always circle at least once before choosing a target ... so it gives us time. ... But the helicopters are more difficult, they can hover and watch for targets." From Buede, I was told that the RUF leader, Foday Sankoh, wanted to see me at the central headquarters. It would be several days' walk, I was informed by Lt. Marba, who was to be my command escort.



Puppies of war line up to register serial number of their weapons before an operation. Little kids are easy to come by; *guns* on the other hand ...

With a huge guerrilla column, I followed the jungle paths. From time to time we broke out of the dense bush to find a village, almost always empty of inhabitants, were we rested. As we left a village I noticed a human skull lying on the path, its gleaming white shining in the sunlight, seemingly grinning at the rag-tag guerrillas who walked past it unconcerned. The slow pace of the heavily laden column forced us to march well into the night to cover the distance. Ahead of me the sound of hundreds of feet stamping on the ground echoed into the night: "ants," was the explanation — our troop had come across a massive column of large black ants which, if allowed, will bite viciously. Like everybody else, when it was my turn to cross the two-meter-or-so wide column of ants, I ran, stamping my feet hard on the ground. Only well away from the ants did we all sink, exhausted, on to the ground and sleep.

So far, apart from the string of destroyed villages throughout the countryside, there was little sign of the war that has claimed some 13,000 lives. But the following day, as we approached the front line, the reality touched home. Between mouthfuls of cold lamb, Lt. Marba asked me if I knew anything about anti-personnel mines. "The whole area we are about to move through," he explained, "is covered with mines ... you must walk exactly in the steps of the person in front of you." Two days later we reached the first front-line battalion without casualty.

"Cuba" camp, as it is called, almost resembled a refugee camp and was constructed mostly of galvanized roofing ripped from the surrounding villages. I was taken through the labyrinthine alleys, hemmed in by sheets of metal on either side, to meet the battalion commander, Captain Mosquito, with whom I discussed my itinerary for the few days I would be in the area. The battalion's camp is right on the front line and only a few miles away government troops were in the town of Tongo. I was taken on a tour of the area with a platoon of guerrillas. After a short walk through surrounding marshes and drier parts of the jungle we arrived at what was once the village of Peyama — after months of being the front line, now utterly destroyed. From a distance all that could be seen was the occasional wall, rising above the knee-high grass. Only at what was once the center of the village did foundations delineate where once rows of houses stood.

As I moved around, photographing the guerrillas, my foot slipped on something in the undergrowth. Looking down, I realized that I had been standing on some unfortunate's femur. Kicking aside the undergrowth I found more skeletons, some still with clothing remnants covering their ribs, fluttering pathetically in the wind.

With me was Staff Captain Kennedy, the regional area commander. The destruction, he explained, was the result of the continuous shelling and aerial attacks that the village had received during the fighting. He had barely finished speaking when the silence was broken by the sound of distant throbbing. "Helicopter," he said, "it will probably be going to Kenema ... they don't use the roads any-

RUF guerrillas with Chinese Type 56-2 variants briefly take control of road outside Kenema.

RUF BUT NOT READY

When word reached *SOF* offices that Contributing Editor Lt. Col. Bob MacKenzie had been killed in an ambush in Sierra Leone in February, 1995, the common reaction was, "*Who* did it?" Even at *SOF*, the obscure Revolutionary United Front was not a household name.

In spite of waning surrogate sponsorship by major East-West powers, Africa is still a fruitful playground for aspiring revolutionaries. Job opportunities for would-be dictators are as good as they have ever been in the fertile arena of small, unstable countries with governments largely unable to effectively defend against any kind of concerted effort. Significant, if underdeveloped, mineral wealth in many such small countries makes such concerted efforts at overthrow, well, worth the effort.

As is not uncommon, the ideology of RUF is somewhat hazy — essentially being a blend of various contemporary revolutionary ideologies from around the world. There is a utopian thread of "foreigners out and village communities in" borrowed from Khmer Rouge communism. There is a strong thread of Pan African nationalism, of pride in being black and African. The RUF ideological handbook, *Footpaths to Democracy: Towards a New Sierra Leone*, written by Foday Sankoh, stresses the need for self-reliance, and gives a rather biased account of the war. One dominant thread throughout is the RUF's intense dislike of politicians, who are universally regarded as corrupt and inefficient.

Outside sponsorship of RUF is not evident. RUF claims they are fighting a self-sufficient war, (i.e. everything they use is captured from the enemy). Personally, I tend to believe them — but that said it should be noted that RUF leader Foday Sankoh has recently paid a visit to Libyan dictator and sponsor of mayhem Muammar Khadaffi. It is also alleged that Sankoh was originally trained in Libya. There is obviously a Libyan connection, but the specifics are an unknown quantity. The RUF make a point of the fact that they are bordered by Liberia on one side and Guinea on the other: The latter has troops actively aiding the Sierra Leonian government; when considering the former, keep in mind that the Liberian side of the border is controlled by ULIMO-K, which is *hostile* to the RUF. It would, therefore, be difficult to bring in any serious supplies. In my experience most of the materiel RUF gets from the outside is smuggled in from Guinea, and most of that is petty items such as tea, powdered milk, etc. I do know for a fact that RUF has been involved in smuggling diamonds out of Sierra Leone via Guinea and then into Ivory Coast.

There may or may not be present connections between players in Sierra Leone and Liberia. Foday Sankoh used to be Charles Taylor's right-hand man, and certainly a number of RUF guerrillas I met admitted to having fought in Liberia before the RUF entered Sierra Leone in 1991. More recently, however, Sankoh denounced Taylor, saying he was interested only in personal gain. It is also conventional wisdom that Sankoh and Taylor met in Libya when both men were being coached in the art of revolutionary warfare by Muammar Khadaffi.

Whatever their outside base of support, if any, it has not proved adequate in the face of concerted and competent resistance by the current Sierra Leonian government and its hired guns.

— *R.S.*

RUF camouflage: Polychromatic young guerrillas "...hide much better than older people..." say RUF commanders.

more," he added with a grin. But as the sound of the rotor blades grew louder there were increasingly nervous glances at the sky. I wondered if I were about to meet the business end of a Russian-made Mi-24 Hind gunship and the devastating firepower that its titanium shell concealed. As the helicopter drew nearer, there were the first *click-clacks* of weapons being charged, and with an added urgency we were ordered back into the protective density of the surrounding jungle. Above us the helicopter thundered over the treetops, oblivious to our presence, until the sound gradually faded into the distance and we all breathed a sigh of relief.

Some days later I resumed my journey toward the headquarters, with an escort of a dozen or so guerrillas. But by now the RUF leader, Foday Sankoh, had declared a cease-fire and had left the bush for negotiations in the Ivory Coast with the newly elected Sierra Leonean President, Ahmed Tejan Kabbah. After a couple of days' march we arrived at a small, empty village. Waiting for us was another guerrilla platoon that was to take me on the final leg of the journey toward the headquarters. A party was dispatched to see what food could be found — a euphemism, I later learned, for raiding a

Continued on page 62

RUF guerrillas attend an "ideological seminar" at Zagoda HQ, study *Footpaths to Democracy*, by *maximum leader* Foday Sankoh.

SHOTGUNSITE

The Ultimate Tactical Scattergun Course

by Peter G. Kokalis

Photos by Chris Mayer

Fighting shotguns will be found in the batteries of all armed professionals. The late Elmer Keith once referred to the shotgun as "the best alley cleaner of all." When employed within the framework of its limitations and maximizing its salient characteristics, the combat shotgun with its multiple-projectile ammunition provides short-range lethality matched by no other firearm. Most scatterguns modified for gunfighting are put together with little regard for the expense involved. That is as it should be, as armed targets are decidedly more dangerous than sporting clays or pheasants. Yet proficiency in its tactical applications cannot be purchased with the same coin as customizing. And very few are as proficient with a smoothbore as they are with the handgun or .223 carbine (usually either one of the M16 series or Steyr AUG in my loop) — the other two key components in a fighting battery. Why? Simply because we are rarely motivated to practice with the shotgun; principally because they are very destructive on all but heavy steel plates and for some the recoil is an unpleasant ingredient.

The very best way to hone your skills with a fighting shotgun is to participate in a tactical shotgun course at a training facility such as Thunder Ranch or Gunsite. Gunsite Training Center is located 26 miles north of Prescott, Ariz., on 933 acres of juniper-pinyon woodland in the Upper Sonoran Life Zone. I recently attended Gunsite's 260 Tactical Shotgun course in an effort to raise my proficiency in a weapon I all too frequently neglect. Armed professionals must continue to receive training from other professionals whenever possible if they are to remain within the constantly changing mainstream of small-arms employment techniques.

Gunsite's physical plant is impressive: There are nine pistol ranges, six rifle ranges and six shotgun ranges. Of the three indoor simulators, the Firebox is devoted exclusively to the shotgun. All offer unlimited tactical variety in all light conditions, from broad daylight to the lowest limit of visibility. Outdoor simulators include the Scrambler, Donga, West Wash, and North Draw. All were used at one time or another during the five and a half days of the course.

The training personnel at Gunsite are equally impressive. Rangemaster for our course was Jerry McCown, who has been teaching at Gunsite since 1984. Jerry recently retired with the rank of captain from the Glendale, Ariz., police department after serving 28 years. His coaches were my good friend Bill Jeans, Gunsite's operations manager and a Vietnam-era combat Marine who spent 21 years with the Clovis, Calif., police department; and Bill Simons, a 30-year veteran, U.S. Navy flight officer. These men have all seen the elephant and rep-

Gunsite's infamous and exhausting Scrambler includes seven firing positions from which the same reactive steel target is engaged with slugs at distances ranging from 89 to 109 yards.

resent a typical cross-section of Gunsite staff in general.

Gunsite's Tactical Shotgun course is both physically and mentally strenuous. Each student requires a minimum of 300 rounds of 00 buckshot, 150 rounds of birdshot and 150 rounds of rifled slugs. Most of us expended an additional 100 rounds of 00 buckshot before the course was over. Shoulder protection is highly recommended, as are knee and elbow pads.

The morning of the first day was spent patterning the shotgun. I cannot overemphasize the importance of this. Every shotgun barrel, even those of the same make, model and with sequential serial numbers, will throw a pattern different from any other; you must pattern your shotgun at varying distances with the exact loads you intend to employ. We patterned our shotguns at 7 yards with birdshot and 00 buckshot and at 15 and 25 yards with 00 buckshot. With regard to the target's distance and its effect on patterning, there are three combat shotgun zones, which will vary in distance from gun to gun. In the "A" zone, due to the proximity of the target, the shot act as a single projectile and you must aim carefully. The so-called "B" zone is the range of distances in which the shotgun is most effective. Here we get the full benefit of the shot pattern, although the pattern should still be centered using the sights. The "C" zone represents the distance at which the pattern can no longer be expected to provide acceptable stopping power. At this distance a slug should be selected. Subsequent to patterning, we fired for zero at 50 yards with slugs and I adjusted my rear sight for a 75-yard zero.

Gunsite 260 Tactical Shotgun student commences a run through the Scrambler from the standing position. This is a timed exercise and the student must move as quickly as possible from one position to the next.

Following this, we practiced the three ready positions used with shoulder-mounted fighting firearms. In open outdoor areas, the "high ready" position with the muzzle up is preferred. The programmed process in this position is always "eyes, muzzle, target" with your eyes on the muzzle of the barrel, which in turn is aligned in the general direction of the anticipated threat. This

Firing from the kneeling position behind a barricade, this student is equipped with a Benelli M1 Super 90. Semiautos reigned supreme in the timed events — when they were not malfunctioning.

position provides the fastest response time. Indoors, or when contact is imminent, the "low ready" (or the "guard") position, with the muzzle pointed downward (but not much lower than the target's hands) and the butt in the shoulder pocket, is employed. When moving through tight quarters, such as doorways or stairwells, the gun should be deployed from the "indoor ready" position: With the butt in the shoulder pocket, the weapon is brought close to the body with the muzzle pointing down at the ground, across the body and just beyond the left foot (for right-handed shooters).

We ended the morning practicing loading from the guard position, eyes on the target. In the afternoon we fired after "searching" with the weapon and then firing either one step to the left or right, using birdshot on steel reactive plates at 7, 10 and 15 yards. Another important guideline is the constant awareness of the shotgun's state of readiness, which should always be determined by touch, while the eyes remain on the target.

Rangemaster Jerry McCown times a student's run through the Dozier drill, which involves engaging five Pepper Poppers.

The second day began with firing from the outdoor ready position at 7, 10, 15, 20 and 25 yards and quick-kneeling from 10, 15, 20 and 25 yards. We used birdshot at 7, 10 and 15 yards and buckshot at 20 and 25 yards. The most popular buckshot load in law-enforcement circles at this time is the Federal Classic 00 Buck Tactical Load (catalog #H132 00). This nine-pellet load features a reduced recoil impulse that makes it far more pleasant to shoot.

In the afternoon we practiced 90-degree pivots from the indoor ready position. A pivot to the left commences with the right foot. A right pivot starts with the left foot. The key tactical concept here is always "stepping to known ground." A 180-degree is somewhat more complex and for right-handed shooters should always begin with turning to the left on the right foot.

Shotguns with tubular magazines have a limited ammunition capacity, usually running anywhere from four to eight. Thus, the magazine should always be kept filled and ready. "Shoot one, load one," or load what you shoot is an important axiom for those deploying with a fighting shotgun.

A corollary of this is having access at all times to extra ammunition. Pockets and belt pouches will do, but most experienced armed professionals supplement the magazine tube with a Sidesaddle shotshell carrier attached to the left side of the receiver. Holding six rounds and manufactured from injection-molded black polymer, the Sidesaddle provides instant access to spare rounds or alternative types of ammunition such as slugs. Rounds should be loaded into this carrier from the bottom, bases down. To remove a shell from this carrier, simply push down on the top of the shell.

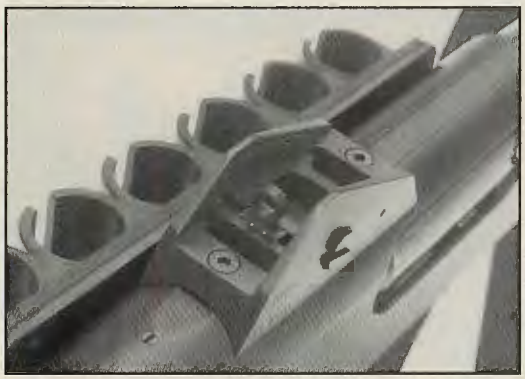
The third day saw us warming up in the morning on steel plates at 10 and 20 yards.

MMC's Shotgun Ghost Ring

Popularized by Jeff Cooper, a large-aperture ghost ring provides a shadow-like effect around the front sight blade, with extremely fast sight alignment at close-range, buckshot distances, without compromising the requirement for precision sighting with solid projectiles at longer ranges.

There are alternatives, but at this time the very best shotgun ghost-ring system is made by the Miniature Machine Corporation. They have now set the standards with regard to ghost-ring systems by which all others must be judged. This is the most rugged, fully adjustable shotgun ghost-ring sight in the world. It will withstand the rigors of all tactical law-enforcement applications.

The rear sight assembly is exceptionally robust. The contoured base is held to the receiver by two oversized No. 8 allen-head screws. It is fully machined from 4140 steel. There are large, integral protective ears on each side of the base. Elevation zero is adjusted by a large slot-head screw on the right side of the sight base. Rotating the slot head clockwise will raise the 0.187-inch diameter peep aperture assembly. Turning it counterclockwise will lower the rear sight aperture. The elevation mechanism operates on an eccentric that cannot be over-tightened or unscrewed. The rear peep aperture, held in a channel by spring-loaded, ball-bearing detents, can be moved to the right or left (to adjust windage zero) by a coin or the rim of a shotshell. The aperture is capable of 30 MOA of adjustment in both windage and elevation in positive 3 MOA clicks.



Peter G. Kokalis

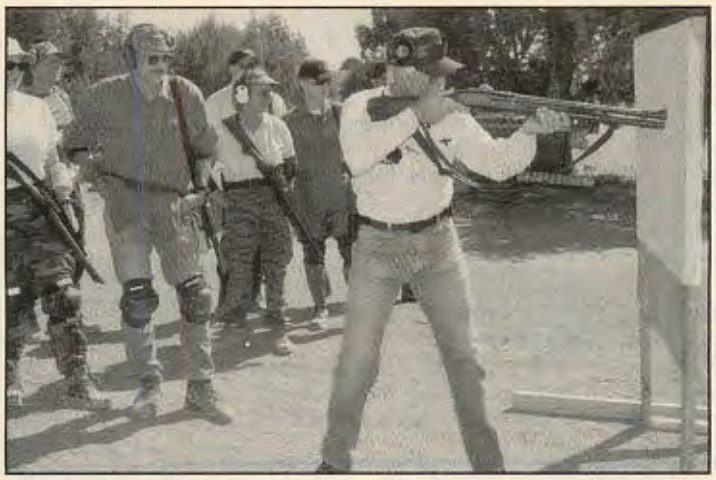
MMC's shotgun ghost ring sight.

The front sight blade, which is 0.125-inch thick, has a serrated top and rear ramp. It is installed by silver soldering, not "space age glue" like some others. A slip-on banded front sight is also available, as is a tritium dot.

— *P.G.K.*

After checking zero with slugs from the sitting position at 50 yards and at 100 yards from the prone position, we began the first timed drills. This involved shooting two steel plates from 10 yards, with either birdshot or buck, in less than 2.5 seconds and 2 seconds. At 20 yards the maximum time allowed to knock down the two steel plates was 3 seconds.

These and subsequent timed exercises provided me with some valuable information about the reliability of slide-action shotguns versus semiautos. Both types were well represented in our class. There were 10 Remington Model 870 slide actions, exhibiting varying degrees of custom alterations, three Benelli M1 Super 90s and three Remington Model 11-87s. There is no doubt in my mind now that semiauto shotguns are significantly faster than pump types in both target reacquisition and shooter response in timed drills. However, there is an important trade-off. At one time or another during the course of the thousands of collective rounds that I observed being fired in five and a half days,



Coach Bill Simons demonstrates the proper technique for firing from behind a barricade as *SOF* Technical Editor Peter G. Kokalis and the other students watch.

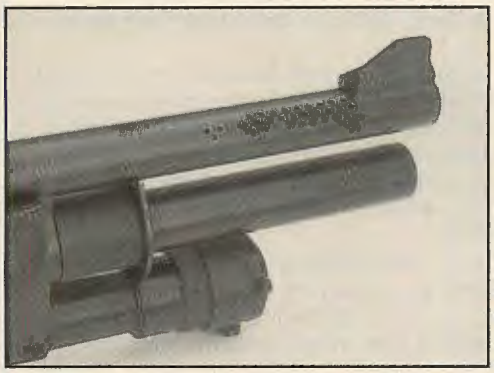
The Vang Comp Shotgun Barrel

Whether you are a law-enforcement officer or a civilian defending his home and family, you must account for every projectile you send downrange. Any that miss the target may impact into an innocent bystander or a member of your family. Shotguns usually spew out multiple projectiles. As the distance to the target increases, the pattern these pellets make on the target increases in size until some of them miss completely. That is one of the shotgun's idiosyncrasies and it must be recognized by those selecting a scattergun for a gunfight.

The pattern a shotgun barrel produces is first of all dependent upon its choke, which is the amount of constriction inside the barrel toward the muzzle end. There are different degrees of choke. Most fighting shotguns are choked cylinder bore. Theoretically, this means no choke at all. However, most manufacturers supposedly add 0.002 or 0.003 inch of constriction at the muzzle to even out the spread of shot and prevent donut-shaped patterns. The pattern produced by various chokes is usually given as a percentage based upon the number of pellets falling within a 30-inch circle around the densest part of the pattern, when fired from a distance of 40 yards. In theory, a cylinder bore choke should place 35-45% of the pellets within the 30-inch circle. Cylinder bore chokes have been traditionally selected for combat shotguns to avoid distortion of slug rounds.

Any number of devices and procedures have been used to tighten the spread of pellets fired through the barrels of combat shotguns. Most were gimmicks that did little or had unacceptable trade-offs. Hans Vang has developed a system that dramatically decreases the pattern without any undesirable side effects.

The heart of the Vang Comp System consists of "extending" the *forcing cone*. That is the forward part of a shotgun barrel's chamber, where the chamber is reduced to bore diameter. The designed intention of the forcing cone is to assist the passage of shot into the barrel. However, on factory barrels the angle between the forcing cone and bore usually remains too sharp. This batters the pellets, distorting their sphericity and enlarging the pattern. When Vang is finished altering a barrel, there is in essence no forcing cone; just a smooth, tapered transition from the chamber to the bore. This permits the crimped shotshell to open smoothly and inhibits deformation of the pellets.



Peter G. Kokalis

A distinctive series of muzzle ports, designed to reduce muzzle jump, identify this as a Vang Comp System shotgun barrel. Note MMC front sight which has been silver-soldered to the barrel.

The second part of the Vang Comp System consists of "back boring." This procedure involves reaming the bore from the chamber end to enlarge the bore all the way up to approximately 1.5 inches in back of the muzzle. This produces a 0.017- to 0.020-inch constriction at the muzzle. I have also found that it requires the use of a 10-gauge bore brush for cleaning.

Finally, the complete Vang Comp System includes a series of ports near the muzzle: 28 holes in three rows of nine, 10 and nine on each side of the barrel and three holes aft of these on each side in the shape of a "V." The purpose of these ports is to reduce muzzle jump and provide faster recovery and target re-acquisition. As the force vector prescribed by gas escaping from these ports is normal (perpendicular) to the bore's axis, they have little, if any, effect on perceived recoil. A second, undesigned benefit is a noticeable reduction in the flash signature with most loads.

The results of all this will obviously vary from barrel to barrel. With the Vang Comp System installed on the Remington Model 870 that I used throughout the Gunsite 260 Tactical Shotgun course, Federal 00 Buck Tactical Loads will place all nine pellets into a 2-inch-diameter group at 7 yards. At 15 yards, all nine pellets will impact within a 6-inch-diameter circle. At 25 yards, the pattern opens up to a 9-inch-diameter circle containing all nine pellets. That is a demonstrably significant improvement. It was my observation during the course that Federal's 00 Buck Tactical Loads seemed to benefit most from the Vang Comp System. All of my many fighting shotguns have now been modified with the Vang Comp System.

— *P.G.K.*

each one of the semiautos had some type of malfunction that was *not* operator-induced. When a slide-action malfunctions, it is invariably the operator's fault. Personally, I'd rather take my chances on my own level of competence with a slide-action shotgun than a semiauto mechanism over which I have no functional control and which may very well shut down at the most inappropriate moment.

At this time we were introduced to another important tactical procedure. One of the shotgun's most attractive features is the wide range of ammunition types available for it. However, to make use of this versatility in a gunfight, the proper manipulative technique must be employed. The procedure is called "slug select." With at least three rounds of buckshot loaded and one in the chamber, you shoot the round in the chamber, jack the slide to chamber the next round, then load a slug into the magazine tube and use the action-lock lever to release the slide and jack it rearward to dump the buckshot shell and chamber the slug. With practice, this can be done with surprising speed.

That afternoon we fired from behind barricades using the standing, kneeling and prone positions on both the left and right sides of the barricade. The day ended with a trip to the Playhouse, one of Gunsite's indoor simulators, to discuss tactics.

The morning of the fourth day, after the usual warm-up drills on the shotgun quad, we began to cycle through the North Draw outdoor simulator. This is where tactical experience prevails. Semiautos and youthful reflexes are no match against those who have made their bones on the battlefield in combat patrols. Firing at steel Pepper Poppers (named after their original designer, John Pepper) and performing the slug-select procedure from behind cover whenever a rifled slug was required to reach out at a long-range target, we snaked our way through the twisting channels of the *arroyo* — always taking turns from the cut-bank side of the channel.

This was followed by a run through the Firebox. This indoor simulator for shotguns uses reactive steel targets with circular Pepper Poppers in the center. Whether indoors or outdoors, the most important tactical admonition is to avoid corners. Entering a doorway into a room that probably contains goblins requires "slicing the pie," which means visually clearing one small segment at a time from behind as much cover as possible. Never lead with the muzzle of your weapon. If you telegraph your entry into a room, you lose the element of surprise and whatever tactical advantage it may have is turned over to your potential opponent. Always have a plan, even if it is only tentative. Remember, "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread." And that *especially* applies to gunfights.

The afternoon was filled with multiple-target shooting, timed snap-shooting from the outdoor ready position at 25, 35 and 50 yards with limits of 2, 2.5 and 3 seconds, respectively, and "Dozier" drills. This latter exercise is timed and involves engaging five Pepper Poppers. We also performed an exercise that determined each individual's danger zone. Starting from indoor ready, the shooter mounts the gun and fires as soon as a runner touching his back takes off running away from the firing line. The runner stops when the shot is fired. Although the distance varied somewhat, the average danger zone was about 7 yards.

Thursday's night shoot started with three-quarter, half and quarter light drills at 10 and 15 yards without a flashlight. After dark, we searched with flashlights from the 15-yard line and fired at steel plates on the "threat" command. This was followed by a high-anxiety trip through the Firebox, simulating a "home alone," in-the-bedroom scenario. The evening ended with a run through the West Wash outdoor simulator employing a flashlight search.

The tempo picked up on Friday with runs through the Firebox (including several outdoor slug targets), Scrambler and Donga. The infamous and exhausting

Brenneke's Tactical Shotgun Slug

The Brenneke Company was founded in 1895 and their rifled slug introduced by RWS in Germany in 1898. The American, or so-called Foster-type slug, was introduced by Winchester in 1936. Foster-type slugs, usually made from a fairly soft lead alloy, have a deep hollow base reminiscent of the Minie-projectile used during the Civil War. These .70 caliber projectiles will penetrate up to 14 inches of soft tissue while expanding to 1.1 inches in diameter. The temporary cavity produced is significant and will add to tissue disruption. The Brenneke is a solid, exceptionally hard lead-alloy rifled slug, usually with a series of felt and card wads screwed to its base. Their new Tactical Slug has a plastic tail boom without the felt and card wad.

All of the above slugs have a series of angular rifling grooves swaged into their outer circumference. This rifling induces a very slow (if, indeed any) rate of spin as the slugs move down the shotgun's smooth bore and air flows through the rifling grooves. The spin supposedly reduces yaw in flight and stabilizes the projectile. However, rifled slugs are subject to considerable wind drift because of their relatively low velocity and large projectile size.

Rifled slugs have a reputation for kicking like hell, because they do. Most weigh 1 ounce (437.5 grains) and they throw that large projectile downrange at velocities between 1,500 to 1,600 fps out of a shotgun usually weighing between 7 to 9 pounds. I'd rather fire my .505 Gibbs dangerous-game rifle, which pushes a 525-grain bullet out of the muzzle at about 2,600 fps, but from a 13.5-pound firing platform. Anyone who tells you firing standard 12-gauge slugs is fun, is into heavy S&M.

However, Brenneke of America Ltd., has recently introduced a Tactical Shotgun Slug that provides truly moderate recoil and, thus, permits more effective follow-up shots. It also eliminates programming a flinch into female law-enforcement personnel and others of light weight and small stature. Tested, average muzzle velocity of this round is 1,230 fps through a 20-inch barrel with an unported Vang Comp System.

As they do not expand or deform, highly-stabilized, hard-alloy slugs have the potential to over-penetrate in soft tissue. This tendency is reduced by the significantly lower velocity of the Brenneke Tactical Slug. With this ammunition I have fired 2-inch groups at 50 yards. The drop in trajectory from the muzzle out to 100 yards is almost 16 inches, also a consequence of the lower velocity. I question those who advocate fighting with a shotgun at that distance. If I can anticipate contact at ranges of 80 yards or more, I will be armed with an M16.

Brenneke has also introduced a Tactical 00 Buckshot Load with substantially reduced recoil. Their buckshot is made with 6% antimony and is fully copper-plated, resulting in the hardest 00 buckshot made. This means unusually deep penetration and very little deformation, even through barricades and heavy clothing.

Both Brenneke's Tactical Shotgun Slugs and 00 Buckshot are excellent additions to the fighting shotgun's wide range of munitions. They deserve to see widespread use in the law-enforcement community and among those who understand the shotgun's potential in the area of self-defense.

(My thanks to William C. Adkins, M.D., for the benefit of his research on this topic. Dr. Adkins is a close friend and one of the "dogs of war" who has accompanied me on recent missions to Bosnia and El Salvador.)

— P.G.K.

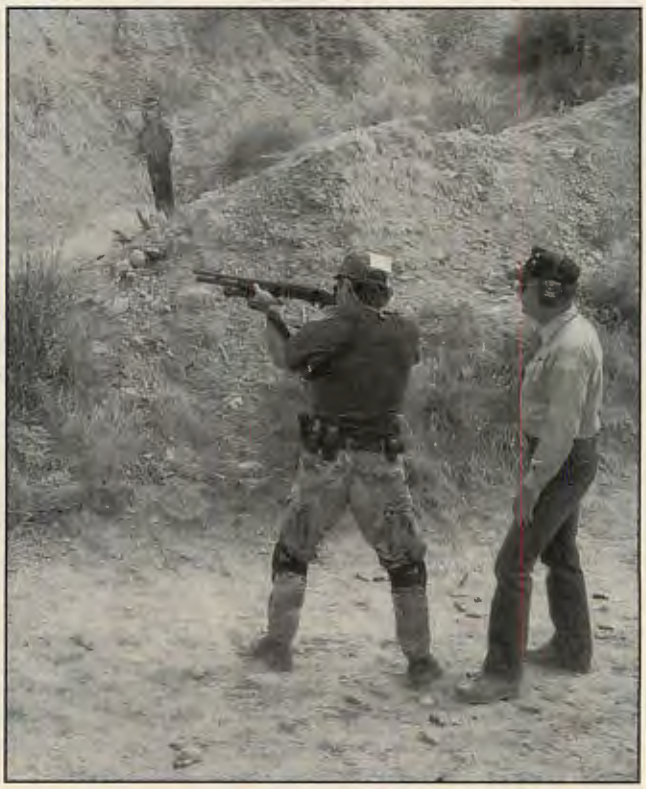
Coach Bill Jeans, Gunsite's operations officer, monitors student firing slugs from the prone position on 50-yard range.

Scrambler includes seven firing positions from which the same reactive steel target is engaged with slugs at distances ranging from 89 to 109 yards. This is a timed exercise. Starting from the standing position, the shooter moves as quickly as possible to kneeling, then to a window position, then to sitting, prone, a hide-hole and, finally, from a tree. We all ran this twice.

The Donga is the most tactically challenging of all of Gunsite's outdoor simulators because of the many natural tributaries flowing into the main arroyo. A 90-yard slug target was also included in the scenario.

In the afternoon we practiced "two plus two" drills in anticipation of the Saturday morning shoot-off, a Gunsite tradition. This is a timed event that requires the shooter to first load three rounds, then on command shoot two, load two and shoot two again. Anything under 10 seconds for the entire sequence is pretty good. Snaps with slugs at 35 yards (in a maximum time of 2 seconds) and at 50 yards (3 seconds) are also part of the shoot-off. The last full day of the course ended with shooting at lateral moving targets, both steel plates for buckshot and paper targets for slugs.

Gunsite's 260 Tactical Shotgun course is both a rewarding and challenging experience. As few will practice with the combat shotgun on their own, it behooves all of those who include it in their fighting battery to participate in a course of this type.



Because of the many natural tributaries flowing into the main arroyo, the Donga is generally considered to be the most tactically challenging of all of Gunsite's outdoor simulators.

Points Of Contact

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SWEDEN's BLUE-WATER SAPPERS

Demo Divers Make The Baltic Safe For Democracy

Text & Photos by Rob Krott

courtesy Crew of HMS Dämman

Swedish navy *Röjdykare* (mine-clearance diver) pauses for required interval of decompression during ascent from floor of Baltic Sea. The SpecOps divers recently cleared underwater mines and unexploded shells, from WWI and WWII, along a 167-kilometer sea lane off Estonia.

I was scarfing down an Estonian-made Big Mac when I overheard a Swedish military officer asking for directions to the nearest mailbox. I provided him and his companions with that information. A friendly conversation followed, and by the time we parted company in the Old Town of Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, navy *Kapten* (senior lieutenant) Jorgen von Platen had invited me to shipboard dinner with some of Sweden's elite mine-clearance divers, the *Röjdykare*.

Kapten von Platen and his men on the *HMS Dämman* were from the *2 Minkrigsavdelningen, 41 Minröjnings Flottiljen* (2nd Minewarfare Group, 41st Minesweeper Flotilla) of the *Röjdykaredivision* (mine-clearance diving unit) based out of Karlskrona.

They were in Estonia as part of a contingent of six ships sent to clear old underwater mines, believed left over from both world wars, from the straits between the Baltic Sea islands of Hiiumaa and Saaremaa. The two-week mission came at Estonia's request: Its small navy lacks minesweeping equipment. The sailing time from the Gulf of Riga to the Gulf of Finland was cut by eight to 10 hours after the Swedes cleared the 167-kilometer stretch of sea lane of old mines and ordnance.

That evening I strolled the 3 kilometers to Tallinn's port and simply looked for a Swedish flag flying from a ship with a camouflaged pattern of paint. A sentry called for the commander. I was ushered aboard.

Dinner was a fine meal of chicken and rice washed down with Tuborg and Carlsberg beers, followed by coffee, dessert and cognac. (Life in the Swedish navy's Röjdykaredivision *does* have its occasional rewards.) My hosts described life as Röjdykare.

Officers of the Röjdykaredivision are graduates of the Swedish Naval Academy and usually are careerists. It's an exciting assignment for a young officer, but there's a trade-off: Because diving is not considered a specialty or career field, they also must maintain a proficiency in one of their navy's regular career fields. As is typical for officers assigned to special-operations units, their service as divers is not seen as a good career move, although that attitude is slowly changing. Kapten von Platen summed it up: "Everything has its price."

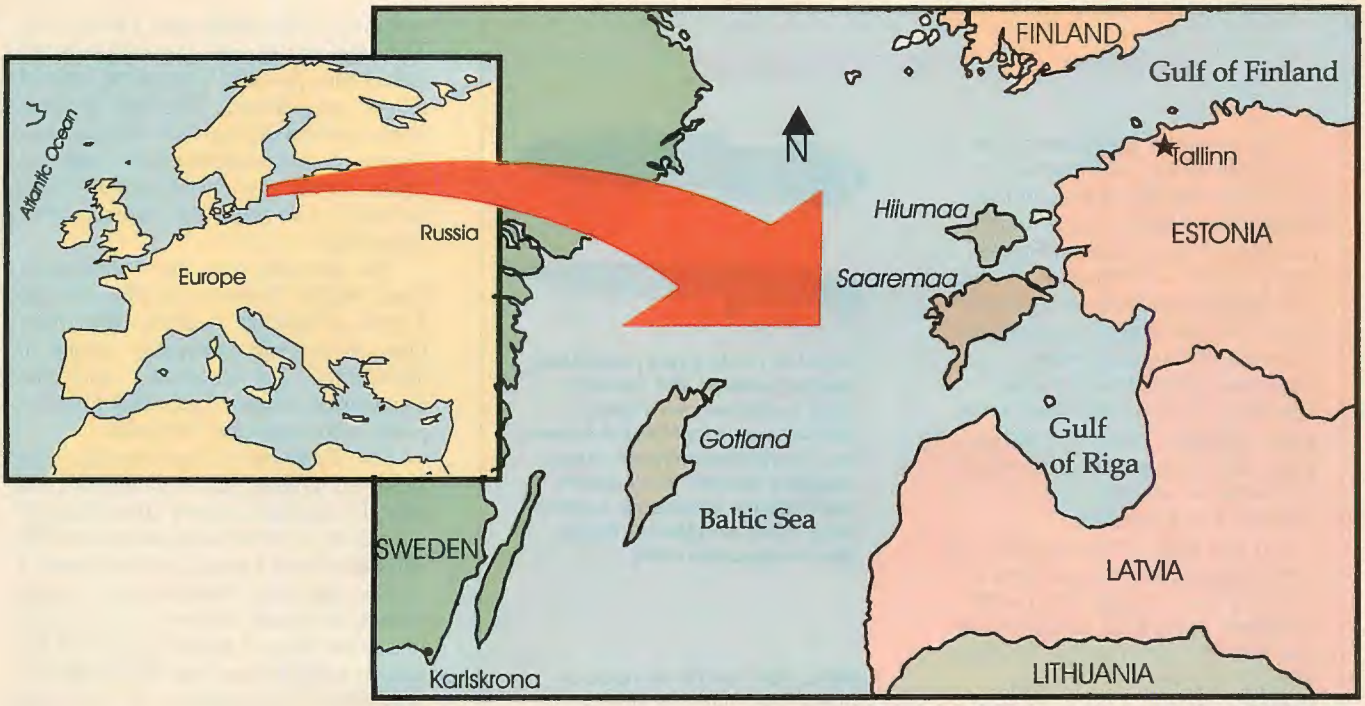
Requiring one year of compulsory national service, Sweden's military conscription provides high-quality recruits. Each year about 35,000 Swedish 18-year-olds are conscripted into the *Försvarsmakten* (armed forces). Inductions take place in June and January. After their initial aptitude tests, about 10% can be expected to score in the top percentiles. This select group of potential volunteers gets the pitch from the Försvarsmakten's elite *Jägare* (rangers), Marine Commandos, *Fallskärmsjägare* (paratroopers), Helicopter Search and Rescue, Submarine Service, and Röjdykaredivision.

The Röjdykaredivision usually tests about 300 men per year from this top 10% of the conscripts. Of these 300, only 30 to 50 will be selected for further training as a Röjdykare. Some of these will fall by the wayside; only 20 or so will actually be accepted into the Röjdykaredivision. It's a tough cut to make.

After induction and before reporting to training, the Röjdykare candidate must pass a strict physical, pass "motivational testing" at Karlskrona, and complete a 25-meter underwater swim, the Swedish officers told me.

During the next phase of selection, a *F-Värnpliktig* (recruit) must run 3 kilometers in 12 minutes and 50 seconds or less (the Röjdykaredivision average being 10:30); run 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) in less than 48 minutes; and swim 400 meters in uniform within 10:30. The three-day "motivational testing" at Karlskrona, home to Sweden's second-largest naval base, consists mainly of physical-fitness tests and an underwater-pressure test to 50 meters in a chamber to gauge the volunteer's ability to withstand depth.

Motivational testing is necessary because most volunteers are civilian-qualified SCUBA divers with grave misconceptions of *military* diving.



Ensign Raffe Nilsson, executive officer of the *HMS Hisingen*, the *Dämman*'s sister ship, said, "Most have the wrong attitudes and ideas of what kind of diving they will be doing in the Röjdykaredivision." Kapten von Platen concurred: Motivational testing quickly convinces volunteers that Röjdykare duty is unlike recreational diving.

The wash-out rate is high: At the last induction of 25 Röjdykaredivision volunteers, only *two* passed.

If he makes that cut, the Röjdykaredivision volunteer then reports to Naval Basic Training at Karlskrona for a three-month course. Upon successful completion of basic he must then complete a two-week, pre-dive class before reporting to Röjdykaredivision training at Skredsvik (a naval base on the west coast of Sweden) for a further three months of training. This is *Grundläggande Dykutbildning*, the Swedish navy's version of the U.S. Navy's basic underwater diving school. Here the hopeful Röjdykare trainee will undergo some of the most arduous diving and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) training in the world.

First, he will be introduced to their version of "Hell Week." I asked my hosts, the Röjdykaredivision officers, about this phase of training. All I got were some wistful grins and a few shrugs; no comment.

In the Grundläggande Dykutbildning a trainee's first real dive training will be with SCUBA gear before moving on to the more complex demand closed, semi-closed (DCSC) system. He will train nearly 20 hours a day, making two dives a day. He will SCUBA dive to a depth of 40 meters (131 feet), and dive breathing mixed gases to 57 meters (187 feet). But there's more in his specialized curriculum: military demolitions and plastic explosives, tactical mine warfare, dive medicine, underwater photography, safety procedures for a variety of dive situations, naval gunnery, basic physics, communications, firefighting, and threats from nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

Physical conditioning includes long-distance rowing and swims, in which 6-kilometer open-sea swims are common. (Most Röjdykare develop into strong, fast swimmers with times that would stand them in good stead on any university team.) After the grueling 12-week Grundläggande Dykutbildning they must then pass a rigorous mine-clearing exam. By now, he already will have made more than 50 dives.

"We produce mine-clearance divers in 21 weeks; that is unique anywhere in the world," said Ensign Magnus Nambord of the *Dämman*. His shipmate, Ensign Daniel Jonsson, nodded and said, "For the conscripts it is the most expensive military education you can get during national service."

No Loudmouths, No Rambos

After completion of six months' training, the Grundläggande Dykutbildning graduate reports to his ship. The commander will evaluate the new diver and gauge his capabilities.

Now a fully qualified diver, the young sailor will have to maintain the standards set during his training. Moreover, he must be able to serve the entire remainder of his one-year service aboard ship, participating in the daily routine and duties of life aboard ship: maintenance, guard duty, ship's detail, and KP. He will live in close confines among a close-knit group of professionals. He must be, first and foremost, a team player.

The Swedes expect a lot from these 18- and 19-year-olds. According to the Röjdykaredivision officers, all Röjdykare must be psychologically sound, physically strong, "good in the water," and strong-willed. Loudmouthed, gung-ho types just don't fit in; mine-clearance diving is deadly serious business.

Estonian naval museum displays torpedoes, naval mines and shells — some modern, some dating to WWI — removed from Baltic Sea. Estonia's navy lacks minesweeping capability and relies on foreign navies.

"No Rambos," Kapten von Platen remarked.

The psychological requirements are necessarily stringent. A Röjdykare must be calm, cool, and collected under the most diverse circumstances — for good reason. On a normal, working dive they might have to deal with 150 kilograms of unstable high explosive while rebreathing a gas mixture in 150 feet of murky, bone-chilling seawater — and make the *right* decision if things go all to hell.

If the Röjdykare is found acceptable he will spend the next six months in the Röjdykaredivision. After that, his one-year compulsory term of service will have expired. Every six

AVOIDING A BAD *INFLUENCE*

The Swedish *Röjdykare* mine-clearance divers use titanium knives for the same reason U.S. Navy SEAL, Marine Force Reconnaissance, Army Special Forces, and military and civilian EOD units do: Magnetically neutral titanium alloys will *not* trigger magnetically sensitive "influence mines." Additional attributes of these specialized knives are titanium's great strength, ability to hold an edge and — especially important for divers — resistance to corrosion by seawater.

On this side of the Atlantic, the only magnetically neutral knife of contemporary design that meets stringent, Navy EOD standards is the "MPK" (multi-purpose knife) by Mission Knives Inc. The suggested retail price for knife and scabbard is $275.

The U.S. military has bought approximately 1,200 MPKs, Richard A. Schultz said, founder and chief executive officer of the California-based company. Most of the 1,200 went to SEAL and Force Recon units. Civilian law-enforcement EOD specialists have purchased another 50 or so.

Whether used as an EOD tool or a close-in weapon, the MPK is a tough, state-of-the-art item.

"The SEALs have had these knives for three years and they have not broken *one* yet," Schultz told *SOF*. "They use them for prying open ammo crates — really abuse them [MPKs]." He added proudly, "We completely over-built this knife."

During development Schultz, aided by partner William W. Love and field operative Homer M. Brett, circulated several prototypes among West Coast SEALs for hands-on tests in a variety of conditions: underwater and on land, in cold and hot weather. Attention to ergonomic detail even addressed the military diver's need for a comfortable handle that could be gripped tightly by a gloved hand in Alaska or a sore, water-swollen hand in Puerto Rico.

The MPK's non-reflective, full-tang blade, 7 1/8 inches in length, is made of Mission's proprietary "Beta-Titanium" alloy. The edge is V-ground and features 2 inches of rope-eating serration. (Schultz allowed Ka-Bar Knives to borrow this "teeth" pattern for its new "Next Generation" military knife.) Its handle is made of Hytrel fire-resistant synthetic reinforced with Kevlar fibers, and does *not* conduct electricity. The knife alone weighs a scant 9 1/4 ounces. Its scabbard, also made of Hytrel and Kevlar, can be worn on a belt, strapped to a leg, or tied upside-down on load-bearing equipment.

Homer M. Brett

The U.S. military has purchased approximately 1,200 titanium-alloy multi-purpose knives (MPKs), made by Mission Knives, Inc. Most of the milspec "magnetically neutral" knives, with non-metallic scabbards, went to Navy SEAL and Marine Force Reconnaissance units.

Even titanium blades occasionally need resharpening, but conventional whet stones and even metal files do an inadequate job. Mission Knives has followed on with production of milspec, *non-magnetic* diamond-coated sharpening rods.

Naval countermeasures against magnetically sensitive underwater mines date back to World War II. But it was not until the 1960s that UDT frogmen began using non-magnetic knives, made by the Imperial Knife Company, that by now are obsolete.

Influence mines, in smaller but nonetheless lethal packages, occasionally are turning up in the soil of Bosnia. Schultz said Mission Knives has sold 300 titanium-alloy probes for use by Army EOD technicians and combat engineers deployed there. Further, the company now is designing a multi-purpose, titanium-alloy knife for ground troops.

The commercial distributor for Mission Knives is Strategic Products, Inc., 8606 Pickford St., Suite 210 (Dept. SOF), Los Angeles, CA 90035; phone: 310-858-5919.

— *M.K.*

months, a commander gets a new crew. The mid-winter and the mid-summer inductions provide a pool of trained divers year around. The only professional sailors he has are his ensigns. But there are exceptions in the enlisted ranks (what the Swedes call "conscripts") who give the commander a little help.

The Swedish navy has "shake-and-bake" NCOs: There is the *Plutonsbefäl*, a type of platoon sergeant who wears three stripes and voluntarily serves an additional six months, and the *Gruppbefäl*, roughly equivalent to a corporal, who wears two chevrons.

The *Dämman's* Plutonsbefäl, with nearly 18 months' service completed and only 17 days left, spoke fluent English (as did all of the officers and most of the enlisted divers I met), but had spent a year in northern Wisconsin as a high-school exchange student. He told me that what he had most enjoyed in his tour as a Röjdykare was that he and his shipmates were allowed to use their initiative.

"In other navies you must wait in line," he said. "You must stand there until someone tells you to do something. Not here. Here you must do your job without being told."

By the time they return to civilian life, the Röjdykare will have completed at least 100 dives mostly under hazardous, real-world conditions and gained a wealth of tactical and practical mine-clearing experience. They've endured hardships and had their personal limits, mental and physical, tested.

Their ships dock throughout Sweden and they get to serve on EOD missions in other countries' waters, such as Estonia. They'll likely find that their experiences and adventures as Röjdykare will benefit them when they return to civilian life.

Being the perfect hosts, the Swedish officers allowed me to tour the *HMS Dämman* and closely examine the diving gear.

The ship is an MCD (mine-clearance/dive ship): basically, an old wooden minesweeper now used as a diving vessel. Its mission is to conduct conventional mine-clearing operations, peacetime munitions clearing, and surveys of the bottoms of Swedish submarines. Anchored nearby were two of the new MCM: mine clearing/minesweepers. These new "plastic" boats mount twin 40mm Bofors cannon. Röjdykare serve aboard both MCMs and MCDs.

In the Swedish navy's 1st Mine-clearing Division, the officers told me, divers are assigned thus: There are nine divers per ship, and the Röjdykare serve in units of four to six ships. All three officers aboard each mineclearing ship are divers;

Continued on page 65

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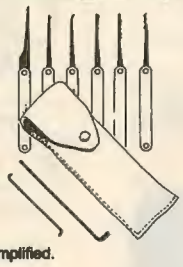

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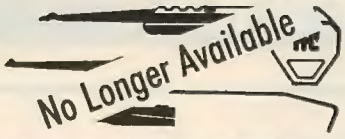

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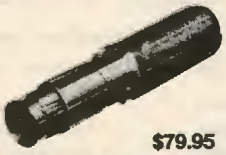

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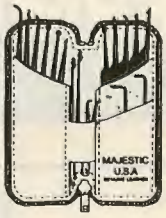

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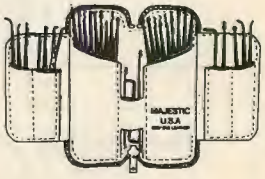

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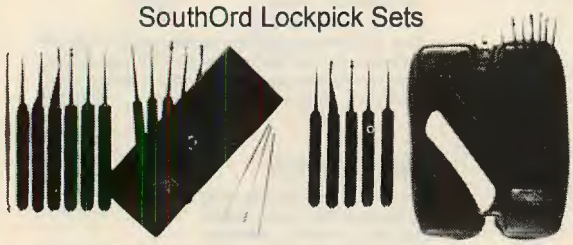

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RUF BOYS

Continued from page 51

local village. If successful, we would eat the standard bush meal of boiled bananas and snails.

In the meantime, the two platoons relaxed and chattered in the ruins of the village, enjoying the last of the day's sun. A fire was lit and wet clothes were taken off and placed around the flames. Dried tobacco leaves were torn up and, with some paper from my notebook, rolled into cigarettes before being passed around. The food party returned, well after dark but flushed with success, carrying large quantities of rice and fried fish. Propping his Kalashnikov against the wall, a guerrilla with the slightly implausible name of High Firing told of their encounter with the villagers. "There were lots of people in the village," he began. "We told them that they mustn't run away from us ... then we gave them a lecture about the war ... we told them that we were fighting for them, so they mustn't run away from us. ... Then they all clapped us ... and gave us the food."

The following morning I noticed a huddled group of people sitting on the veranda of one of the houses. "They're civilians," explained Sergeant Mohammed, "they tried to run away from us on our way here, yesterday, so we captured them." In the cold light of dawn the small group, of mixed age and sex, listened in silence as one of the guerrillas lectured them. We finally set off with the civilians carrying various tables and chairs that the guerrillas had salvaged from the wreck of the village. Climbing the hills, one of the guerrillas pointed across the bush below us. "Kenema," he said, pointing to the town that I could just make out in the distance — and which we must avoid.

Our route, however, took us across the main road which, since the cease-fire, had once again started to flow with government armor. As we neared the road it became apparent that there were people nearby; some scouts were sent ahead to see if there were any soldiers. Returning, they reported that there were only civilians, but the problem of *me* remained. Were the civilians to report a white face traveling with the guerrillas, chances are that despite the cease-fire there would be soldiers sent after us. Fifty or so meters away the voices of civilians could be heard, oblivious to what was about to happen to them. Sergeant Mohammed decided that the civilians must be frightened off before I could cross the road in safety. Around me the noise of weapons being cocked, of *click-clack, click-clack*, sounded deafening in the otherwise quiet jungle.

Half a dozen guerrillas charged, shouting, through the bush separating us from

the civilians. Within seconds another sound, the sound of alarmed and frightened voices, filled the air as the fleeing civilians shouted ahead, warning others about the oncoming guerrillas. "Quickly," said Mohammed, and the already-captured civilians and I ran through the bush to reach the road. The advance party was already on the road. Kneeling down, a guerrilla aimed an RPG-7 down the road for any oncoming traffic that might coincide with our crossing. Others positioned themselves at different lengths along the road, aiming weapons in both directions. As I arrived on the road they began jogging down it, weapons at the ready, urging us to hurry. Sprinting, we dove down a sloping, slippery bank.

As we ran, the rumble of vehicles could be heard from the road above. Behind me the guerrilla armed with the RPG dropped to his knees and took aim at the road above; another two dove into the bush hiding the traffic above, leaving the rest of us to continue for the distant bush. There was, however, no sound of gunfire, no *vroosh* of the rocket-propelled grenade. The convoy passed along the road above, either not noticing or ignoring the frantic figures below, and after 15 minutes we slowed down to a walk, continuing the journey at a less hectic pace. The journey was one long witness to the destruction caused by the war. Villages lie empty, burned and looted. Along the side of a pathway, lying on the green verge, was the semi-decomposed corpse of a man, still clad in a jacket that held his otherwise disintegrating body together. Entering a "combat camp," home to a dozen or so guerrillas whose job it was to warn of any government encroachment in the area, I noticed a skull stuck on a stick — its gleaming whiteness contrasting sharply with the dark green of the surrounding jungle. "Enemy head," grinned a guerrilla as we trooped past.

On my arrival at the Zagoda headquarters I was greeted by the commander in Sankoh's absence, Lieutenant Colonel Mohammed Tarrawally. Sprucely dressed in American jungle boots, fatigue pants and Nike-emblazoned sweatshirt, he was full of soft-mannered courtesy. With its reed-built huts and thatched roofs, Zagoda contrasted sharply with the corrugated iron of "Cuba" but even here, during a cease-fire and far from the front line, the presence of war was never far away. The sudden approach of a jet fighter sent the camp into pandemonium. Guerrillas rushed to invert the solar panels used to recharge batteries, lest they betray the position of the camp. But almost before the first panel had been turned over the jet had passed by, leaving only waves of sound in its wake, its disappearance as violently sudden as its arrival. "It's just their way of letting us know they're still out there," was the colonel's later assessment.

But cease-fire or not, there was a limit to what the guerrillas would tolerate concerning such minor government violations of the cease-fire. Government troops, I was informed, had — allegedly — shelled RUF positions in the vicinity of the southern town of Bo, and retaliation was the order of the day. Major Morris Kallon, commander of 5th Battalion, would lead a punitive expedition. The operation would, said the major, be a two-pronged one: The area where the troops had come from was to be assaulted at the same time as the ground they have occupied since the RUF guerrillas beat a hasty tactical retreat from it. The following day, before the assembled troops, the weaponry was issued. In orderly lines the guerrillas came forward to pick up a variety of weapons. Along with the standard AK-47 and its various derivatives were Heckler and Koch G3s and American M16s. In addition, the force took a dozen RPG-7s and three 12.7mm, Chinese-made, DShk heavy machine guns, which were broken down for the 48-hour march.

I watched a guerrilla, no more than 10 years old, strip his Kalashnikov, checking each piece before finally inserting the magazine with a definitive *click.* Along with two dozen or so others he is part of the Small Boys Brigade

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which, according to RUF senior commanders, is one of their most effective fighting units. "The small boys," said one commander, "can hide much better than the older people and are often better in the bush." I watched as they chattered excitedly at the prospect of action, jostling to reach a commander who noted the serial number of the weapon alongside the boy's name. I reflected privately on the numerous accounts of rebel atrocities — of hacked-off arms and other mutilations — that have reportedly been the work of boys such as these.

With the departure of the assault group the waiting began for word of the operation. A rebel rolled a cigarette from a page of the Bible. I asked him if he could read. "Small, small," came the answer with a contrite grin. Holding up the page he said, "The Bible is very good ... when I smoke from it, all the words go to my head and I become strong." Despite the mixture of Christianity and Islam in the RUF, indigenous animist beliefs and superstitions that predate the arrival of European colonialism and the Christianity it brought, remain a dominant force. Another guerrilla had a series of small cuts on his upper arm which, he assured me with faint embarrassment, made him bulletproof. "With these the bullets have no effect on me," he said, emphatically jabbing his chest with his fingers before flinging his arms away, imitating bullets bouncing off his chest. "African culture is very strong," he adds, although I suspect the word he was searching for was "magic."

By now news of the attack had come through, but like the rest of the world we listened to it initially on the world service of the BBC. A rebel attack, said the announcer, has caused widespread panic among the army and civilians alike. The operation has been, said the colonel, a complete success and will be a lesson to those who have begun to argue that the RUF is a finished military force. "The war," he says with a smile, "is not over yet."

Meanwhile, the cease-fire is holding. There continues to be the odd skirmish and village raid by the RUF for food. Peace talks drag on, run aground over the issue of Executive Outcomes personnel in Sierra Leone: RUF refuses to some out of the bush while EO cadre are in the country, and the government is loathe to give up what is in effect the backbone of their defense establishment. Both sides appear to be in no hurry to make a lasting peace and obviously want to keep their options open.

The military situation is now solidly in the government's favor, exclusively because of the impact of EO on the scene, who since their arrival last year have pushed RUF back and made a RUF victory next to impossible. It is almost certainly for this reason that the RUF are now negotiating. The political situation is relatively calm in Sierra Leone. There

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have been democratic elections. The army has, at least for the moment, retired from the political scene and there is now in place a pluralistic political system headed by President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah.

The stated goal of the RUF leadership has been simply to overthrow the government and establish "democracy" in Sierra Leone. The government may not only have beat them on the battlefield, it may have beat them to their stated goal, as well.

Roddy Scott is a freelance photo-journalist specializing in guerrilla war.

SWEDISH DIVERS

Continued from page 60

additionally, there are six enlisted divers plus an engineer and a cook per minesweeper/mineclearing ship.

The Plutonsbefal and Ensign Nambord walked me through the use of the DCSC breathing system; I was fascinated. In the past month I had made SCUBA dives with Thai marine-recon teams and the Estonian special-operations group; I was current for real-world military diving. However, *this* gear was light years ahead of SCUBA. Without proper training on it, I easily could find myself signing up for a berth in Davy Jones' Locker.

The Röjdykaredivision's dive equipment is built in Sweden by InterSpiro. A semi-closed system with lime rebreather ensures that at 30 meters (98 feet) they have two hours of bottom time — important when a *Dykare* (diver) is defusing/disarming a mine. The DCSC system incorporates a full face mask and a two-hose regulator by AGA, with a brass centerpiece for the regulator. Other fittings are brass as well.

Röjdykare equipment must be non-magnetic and as non-metallic as possible because of the magnetic-detonating systems built into many naval mines. To that end, their titanium dive knife is a nice piece of equipment, albeit a little pricey at 3,000 Swedish crowns (U.S. $440) apiece. (See accompanying article.)

There was, however, one piece of gear that a regular guy could afford: Citizen quartz dive watches are the choice of enlisted Swedish divers. Officers, of course, wear *Rolexes*.

Pushing The Envelope

Because of this special equipment, the Swedish divers use a 30% Nitrox/28% oxygen blend. Nitrox is a gas mixture containing nitrogen and oxygen in proportions other than those found in surface air. Examining the Röjdykare

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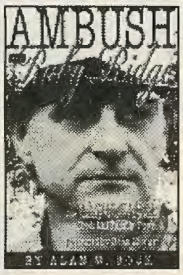

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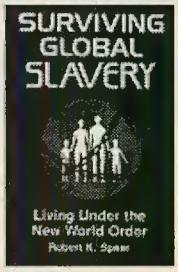

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decompression tables in their Diving Service Regulations Safety Rules manual, I found that a Nitrox dive at 25 meters (82 feet) was equivalent to an air dive at 17 meters (56 feet) giving a decompression according to 18 meters.

With Nitrox they can — and do — dive to 57 meters. That's considered "extreme radical" when compared to American sport-diving tables with their built-in safety margins. The Röjdykare *really* push the envelope.

"They Could Just Kill Me"

Below, in the crew's cramped quarters, the Dykare were watching a video. A good bunch of guys, they were possessed of a quiet pride and self-confidence — natural by-products of their proven ability and hard-earned, elite skills. They have the same "can-do" attitude found in special-operations units the world over.

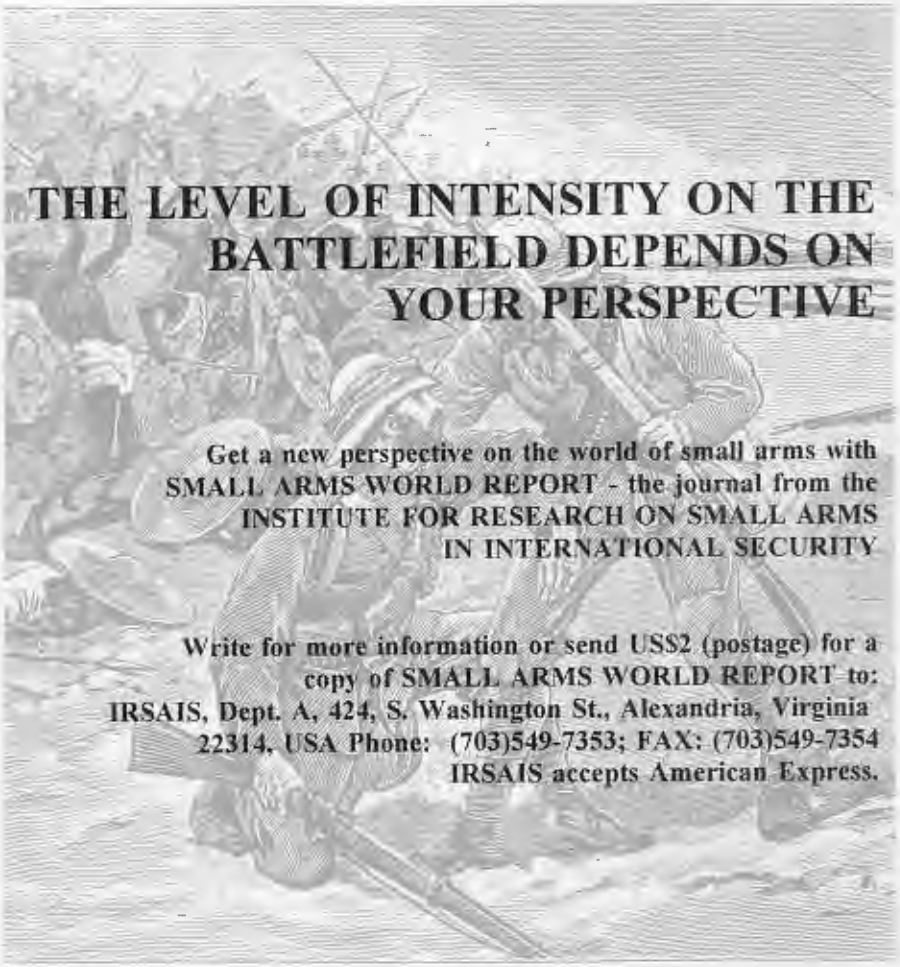
These guys are good and they know it. But these SpecOps servicemen have no distinctive insignias. There's no special qualification emblem corresponding to the U.S. SEALs' eagle- and-trident "Budweiser" or Army Special Forces SCUBA "bubble" badges. Other than the Röjdykare-division name tape on the flattop cap of the enlisted men, the only thing to mark them as different from other Swedish sailors is a gold charm on a chain around their necks: a caricature of a small frog they call "Anselm Zacarias the Diver."

Their officers, likewise, are highly motivated, enthusiastic young men. There is no snobbery between the "classes." The officers refer to the enlisted men as "my divers" with obvious pride. With such close confines aboard ship, you either get along with your men or you get put off the boat.

As one young officer confided to me, "If the enlisted divers didn't respect me, if I was an asshole, they could just kill me." True enough; accidents happen at sea all of the time and mine-clearance diving missions are fraught with danger. But as Ensign Nambord said: "I trust these men completely. They will do the job they're given. I know that. They are the best."

When we parted company for the last time, the Swedish officers were off to Tallinn's "Cafe Amigo" disco to drink beer and chase green-eyed Estonian blondes. Yes, the life of a Röjdykare is tough — but it does have its occasional rewards.

Rob Krott is an SOF *senior foreign correspondent who has covered armed conflicts in Bosnia, Somalia, Sudan, Cambodia, and Burma.*



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SEALs

Continued from page 45

cial Pistol For Special Ops," Oct. '95 *SOF*.)

"Our training and environment demand excessive levels of performance, durability, and reliability from our equipment and weapons," a former Dev-Group operator told *SOF*. "We have to have the best to get the mission done."

Team 6's training takes place all over the world and in a variety of skills, including high-altitude parachuting in Arizona, close-quarters shooting with legendary pistolero John Farnam, and hand-to-hand combat with former ST-6 operator and noted martial-arts instructor Frank Cucci.

Clearly, the Hollywood image of a SEAL counterterrorist is far different from what actually exists.

"We're not Rambos, rogue warriors, snake-eaters, nor loose cannons," a veteran SEAL said. "A SEAL on ST-6 is a highly motivated, proud, skilled individual who can make split-second decisions that count. He doesn't need or seek to broadcast how good he is, or what he's done. He's a military professional charged with the responsibility of carrying out his missions with success."

Another SEAL, today a part of the counterterrorist effort, added: "A SEAL is an individual by nature, but he has to possess the ability to submit his ego, desires and needs to that of his team. Being a team player is what being a SEAL is all about."

Navy SEALs typically operate in the shadows, and Team 6 especially so. When asked to comment on counterterrorist capabilities, spokespersons from both the Navy and Naval Special Warfare issue only one statement for publication: "No comment."

SOF *contributor and former Special Forces soldier Gregory A. Walker has written extensively about U.S. SpecOps. His new book* Teammates: SEALs At War, *is scheduled for November release by Simon & Schuster/Pocket Books.*

GOLD-MEDAL

Continued from page 45

have gone to work had the Atlanta Olympics experienced an event deemed by the highest civilian authority to require their level of courage, daring and deadly expertise. The SEALs were deployed under strict policy guidelines and well within legal restraint.

As provided by 10 U.S. Code 373-375 and Section 1004 of the 1991 Defense Authorization Act, special-operations units can assist and train DLEAs under specific guidelines and with the express authority of the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM). Although primarily concerned in DLEA matters with equipment and drug-interdiction support, USSOCOM may authorize other limited support as an exception to policy in *special* cases.

The 1996 Olympics ended with the pipe-bombing — which was bad enough — as the only overt act of terrorism.

"You train, and train, and train," a combat-experienced Team 6 operator later said, "and then you're locked down in a safehouse or hotel suite somewhere and told to be patient. This while everyone on the outside takes their shots as a Monday-morning quarterback.

"We didn't want anything to happen to anybody at the Olympics," the shooter continued. "But if something had gone down, only the bad guy would have suffered the consequences — in a very terminal way. As it was, the only medals given for this operation went to the athletes."

— *G.A.W.*

WILD GEEZERS

Continued from page 33

seven cots in the crowded tent. We would eat and sleep in shifts. Our eclectic group had seven vets, including a DEA special agent, a pharmacist, two businessmen, a state highway patrolman, a baron/consulate general, and a Greek para.

Much stimulating conversation occupied our time as well as joking, exploring, and visiting the Mi-8 crew. On one visit to the cockpit of the helicopter, where much vodka was being consumed, we noticed condensation dripping from the instruments and the interior. This was, we surmised, business as usual for these hearty Russians stationed in the polar region. There was no choice but to put our trust in these rugged aircraft and boisterous, imperturbable pilots and crew.

After Action

The 48 hours in the air and on the polar ice, adrenaline stress, uncertainty, and disorientation had taken their toll; we were a bedraggled, burned-out bunch of troopers. Sleep came easy in the warmth and relative calm of the Antonov on the flight out — before we knew it we were landing in Khatanga. The time was 0130 Friday and some of the Dutch and Germans would celebrate with champagne and booze until breakfast. I retired to my room and the eerie realization all three of my roommates were hospitalized. I had been fortunate.

Late Friday night the remaining 30 returned to Khatanga from the Pole in Antonov biplanes. Their experience at

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the North Pole proper had not gone as well. Stress and dissension had wracked the contingent almost from the beginning. Homer Brett, one of the two American paras left behind on the Pole, in order to avert increasing unrest, served as a mediator between the unflappable Russians and some of the more frantic skydivers.

Saturday morning some of us prepared a semi-private area in the cavernous interior of the IL-76 for our injured jumpers. With blankets thrown over static line cables, we formed a tent to afford some privacy. Our three stretchered paras and one Russian jumper were delivered by ambulance and lifted on board amidst packs, duffels, luggage — and a dozen frozen caribou carcasses. Free enterprise on the march!

An all-night search for hospital accommodations in Moscow finally paid off early Sunday morning. Denied admittance to the U.S. Embassy facility, nightlong attempts to get our injured into Russian hospitals also proved futile: "Sorry, no room." After some high-level negotiations, the U.S. Embassy's five-bed facility reserved for American civilian tourists relented and admitted our injured: The bill for *one day and night* in the embassy hospital was more than $8,000 for three beds. We passed the hat.

As we departed for the United States, it was agreed by most that our jump on the North Pole had been the supreme non-combat parachute adventure. We were glad we did it, but wouldn't want to repeat that jump using military-style chutes. All but my Texan friend, that is, who after months of extensive therapy lost all five fingers on his left hand from the frostbite: He told me he'd do it again "in a New York minute!"

A pharmacist by profession, Monte Marshall served with the 11th and 82nd Airborne Divisions and currently is an SFC in the California State Military Reserve. He has jumped in Israel, Guatemala, El Salvador, South Africa, China, Russia, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Canada and Holland — and the North Pole.

Those interested in jumping at the North Pole, and other exotic places, with like-mined souls should contact Bob Christ of the International Association of Airborne Veterans, 2568 N. Clark St., Suite 340, Chicago, IL 60616; phone: 312-327-3120.

"SWIMMER"

Continued from page 41

of a whole fleet of "STABs" — and they are most assuredly *not* the STABs developed by Macione and crew.

Hutchins says on page 102 that "until 1969 SEALs were a very well-kept secret, an organization rumored to exist but about which little was known." He obviously failed to read numerous pre-

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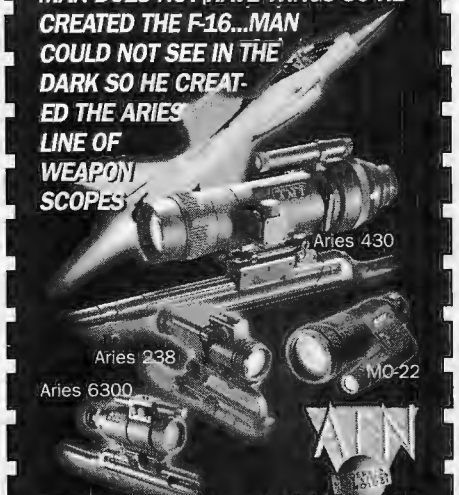

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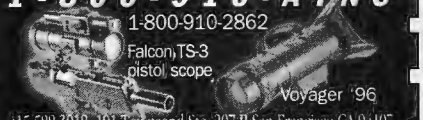

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1969 accounts of SEALs in such sources as the "Buz Sawyer" comic strip and *Reader's Digest* and *Time* magazines, among others. The SEALs' reputation as maritime commandos was established well before 1969.

Throughout this book are numerous niggling errors of fact that detract from what would otherwise be a mere piece of trash.

On page 105 Hutchins states that SEALs conducted operations "almost every day or night." Hardly, even SEALs need rest. In truth, the most intense operational tempo would not have seen the typical SEAL in the field more than half of the time, except in the rarest of instances.

A few pages later Hutchins refers to the SEAL "team leader" as being someone who was alternately called "Honcho," "Boss," or "the man." During my 27 years as a SEAL, I never heard an officer routinely referred to by any of those terms. In fact, no SEAL would refer to a "team leader" at all, as a "team" refers to a complete SEAL team. The Vietnam SEALs consisted of detachments, platoons, squads and elements; the "teams" (Teams 1 and 2) were left back in Coronado and Little Creek.

Joel, you also should be advised that very few SEALs were "fluent" in the Vietnamese language, notwithstanding your assertion on page 135. In fact, I knew only one SEAL who was truly fluent: He was the son of missionary parents assigned to Southeast Asia.

But by far the most fanciful part of *Swimmers* is chapter 11: "Watching the Trail for SOG." The tale told here is outrageous.

While any self-respecting SEAL would have jumped at the chance to do cross-border operations in Laos, Cambodia and North Vietnam, the fact is that — with only a *handful* of exceptions — they never crossed a national border. SEALs certainly never conducted raids against NVA base camps within North Vietnam or launched raids against POW camps and Haiphong harbor (page 169), nor did they operate with H'mong tribesmen and CIA agents along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Indeed, it was the rarest of occasions when (apart from the invasion of Cambodia's Parrot's Beak in 1970) any U.S. military personnel operated on the ground outside South Vietnam.

In conclusion, I must say that as long as military-book publishers are willing to accept at face value the claims of SEAL wannabes, *Soldier Of Fortune* will continue to publish reviews like this one. And I'm only too happy to write them!

Retired SEAL Larry Bailey served 27 years. The Alexandria, Va., resident previously wrote two SOF *articles on bogus frogmen: "Fake SEALs and Phony Frogs," July '95; and "The Preacher Is a SEAL?," Nov. '94.*

I WAS THERE

Continued from page 18

the very bottom and started my strobe flashing. If there were injured, maybe they could do likewise. (Our team sergeant decided to flake out where he landed; slipping into his "fart sack" and awaiting a merciful dawn.)

Five hours later, we were all together, miraculously, everyone in one piece. Apparently, instead of heading into the valley designated as our drop zone, the pilot had veered left, almost smashing into the face of a mountain. Navigational mistakes are understandable, but hitting the green light when he *knew* we weren't over the DZ is lunacy.

A member of the DZ reception committee later told me that he didn't think we had jumped since he didn't see our parachutes deploy. This meant that our canopies had not opened until we were below the ridgeline! Checking the map, we saw that the mountain's elevation was 1100 feet. Since our announced jump altitude was about 300 feet lower, we were lucky the plane even made it over the crest.

I guess the cliché, "Any jump you walk away from is a good one," still holds true. We half-joked that the pilot had messed up so badly that the Air Force would probably determine that he needed more practice — and that *we* would be ordered to *volunteer* to be his jumpers.

STAR WARS

Continued from page 39

responses and ... electrical shock, including death by electrocution [and] tissue heating [caused] by energy absorption."

One of the first human symptoms of exposure to EMP or microwave radiation is vision failure, caused when the fluid in the eye is heated. This would explain, Owens said, why the disoriented crew flew right over an open, just-plowed field — an ideal emergency landing spot — before crashing.

Major Barkley, who'd told his son he'd see him that night, probably couldn't see anything when he died, blinded by the government he so faithfully served.

"I didn't see him that night," Wes Barkley would recall sadly at his father's funeral service in Hickory, North Carolina. "But I've seen him ever since, every time I look in the mirror... All of us have a little bit of dad in us. And as long as we do, my dad will never die."

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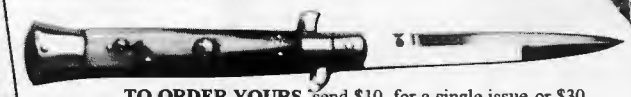

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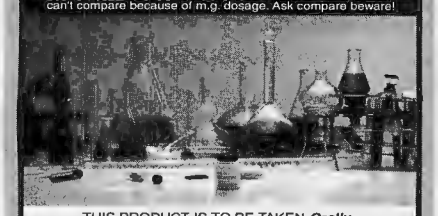

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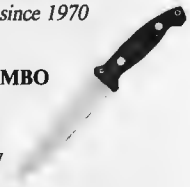

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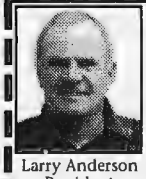

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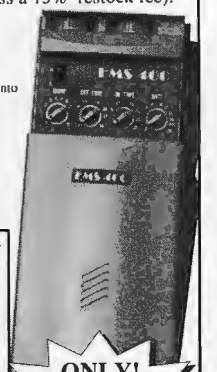

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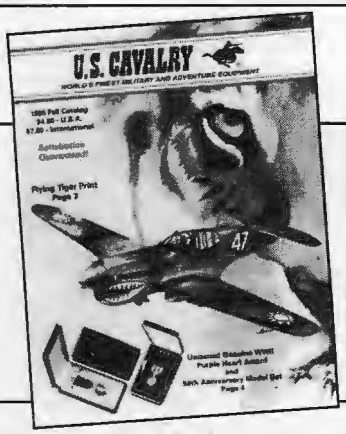

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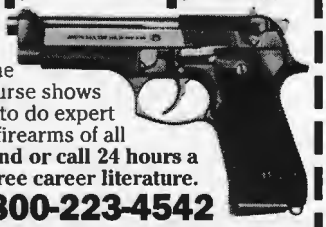

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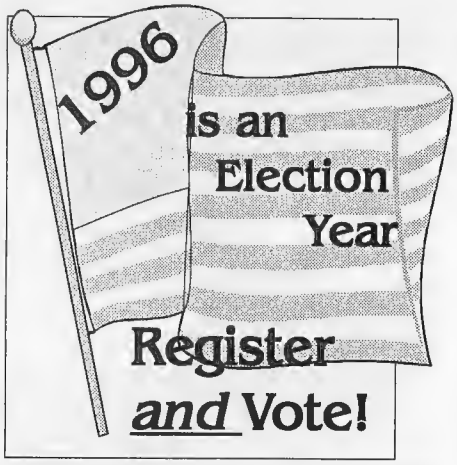

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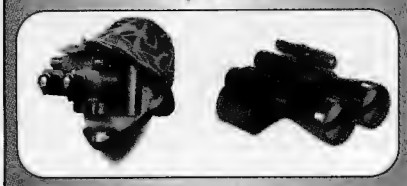

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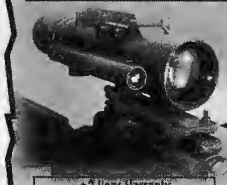

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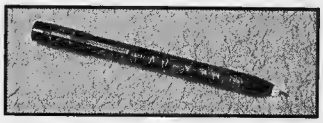

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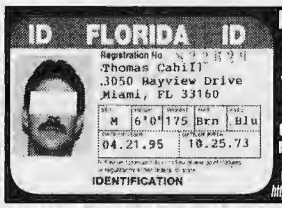

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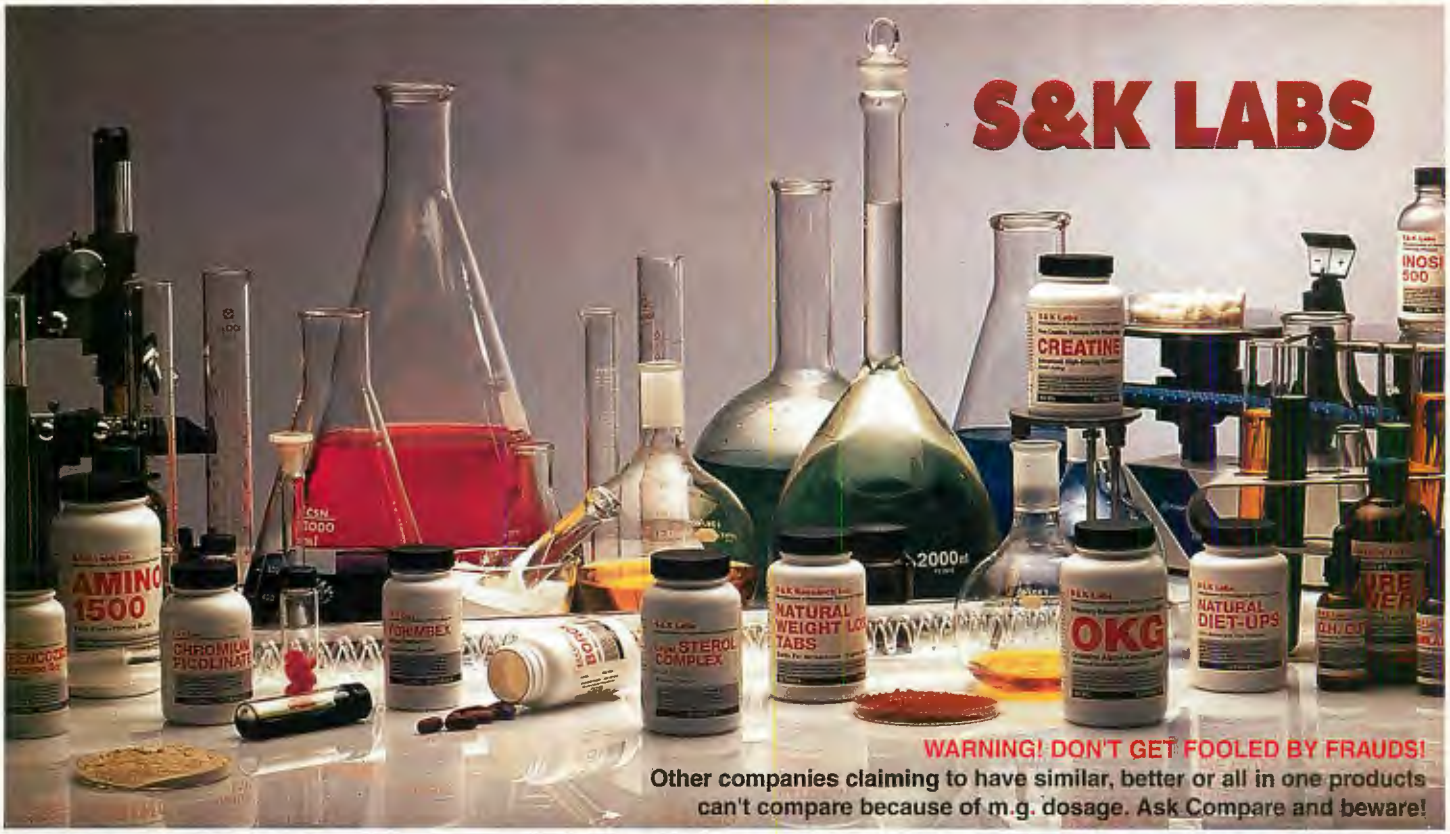

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